



# SRC Special Meeting

| 2 February 2023 | DSA 2-17 | 17H30 |

## 1. Welcoming and Opening

The President started the meeting at 17H45.

## 2. Attendance:

### 2.1 Present:

Njabulo Sibeko – President (Pres)  
 Neville Mupita – Deputy President (DP) (Late with Apology)  
 Pheny Matabane – Secretary (SG)  
 Christo Pretorius – Deputy Secretary (DSG)  
 Lauren Thabethe – Treasurer (TG)  
 Captain Shongwe – Facilities, Safety and Security (FSS)  
 Thokozane Zwane – Media, Marketing and Communications (MMC) (Attended Online)  
 Khanyi Mahlangu – Study Finance (SF) (Attended Online)  
 Karabo Lefete – Day Student and External Campus Affairs (DSEC) (Late with apology)  
 Francois du Plessis – Residences 2 (Late with Apology)  
 Karabo Mogale - Societies  
 Sphesihle Makhanya – Transformation and Student Success (TSS) (Attended Online)  
 Katlego Modise – Sport  
 Pule Nkadimeng – RAG  
 Jaryd Grobler – Culture (Attended Online)  
 Zeenat Patel – Academics 1 (Attended Online)  
 Sandile Manoni – Academics 2  
 Vhutshilo Muambadzi – Residences 1

### 2.2 Absent with apology:

None

### 2.3 Absent without apology:

None.



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

### 3. Acceptance of previous minutes and adoption of agenda

#### 3.1 Acceptance of previous minutes

TG

DSG

RAG

#### 3.2 Adoption of agenda

No activity

#### 3.3 Noting of Matters Arising:

**Pres** - Institutional Forum Executive Committee Election by Pres (got email late)

**FSS** - Security Services Mr Bonsia

**SG** - UP Shop

### 5. Adoption of Minutes

**Academics 1:** Enquired about the possibility of us including offices in the minutes, voter naming.

**Pres:** Denied and stated that the way we do it is fine.

**Culture:** Enquired about the rejected minutes of the first special meeting and protocol to be followed. DP supposed to check but was absent at the time.

Suggested that members send SG any issues they may find with the minutes and they should be amended and sent out, thereafter.

**Pres:** SG will provide another copy send by today. 3rd of February.

**SG:** By midnight.

### 6. Feedback from Executive:

No feedback from the Executive since it did not meet.

### 7. NSFAS: Private and residence Accommodation.

**SG:** Expressed on the urgency of student accommodation and requested for the SRC to the issues at hand, huge attention. Mentioned that students who are affected by the R45000 NSFAS cap in accommodation are considering communes and they are not safety given the number of stories about house break-ins from the previous year.

**Pres:** Explained that, in 2020 NSFAS gave UP ability to accreditation, from 2020 there were not students moving to communes. R45000 cap, was R60000 in 2022 for the NSFAS student. Tuksres has an uncapped amount. NSFAS would cover the whole fee. Minister Blade Nzimande spoke about the, R61000 on TV, where this money is inclusive of meal allowances. Said that we need to find out where we stand as are vehemently against it. More to be briefed upon.

**Residences 1:** Asked about the response we should give to students about the accommodation issues and the shutdown poster and also, should the general message be that the management has applied for exemption.

**FSS:** Said that the possible step to take as SRC, is to get NSFAS to increase the accommodation allowance.

**Sports:** Asked if he should respond to the questions or later.



**Pres:** Responded that only when the report is given later in the meeting.

## 7. POAs

**TG:** Gave a brief message and thanked everyone for attending POA feedback meetings from Sunday, 29 January 2023 and sending back the amendments on their POAs suggested by the Executive.

**Pres:** Commented to thank everyone for attending those meetings and taking suggestions and fighting for POAs.

## 8. Budget

**TG:** Explained that we have R4700000 in our SRC Budget and requested that we donate R200000 from there into the SRC Study Aid Fund. Mentioned that it is by choice and our money operational money will be determined by our donation.

**Pres:** Noted hands.

**Academics 2:** Raised a concern if different avenues that were suggested last week to go look for money were explored.

**TG:** Noted that a letter has been sent to Dr Jorissen (Dr J) to ask for more money for the Study Aid fund, and he has not responded. Explained further that Toolbank wants to allocate money to our cost centres.

**Academics 2:** Societies

**Pres:** Explained that we were aware of DSA stance to the Study Aid fund. Dr J's email.

**TG:** Donate anymore.

**FSS:** Asked if there was nothing for Study Aid Fund and is the R470000 our operational money for all portfolios for this year.

**TG:** Responded that the R470000 is our operational funds. She suggested that we donate R200000 for the Study Aid Fund from our operational money out the good of our heart.

**Transformation:** Responded that he was well captured by Academics 2, where we cannot not sacrifice so money for food. Suggested that we first submit our costs, with the events. Once we have done that, we can explore to donate into the Study Aid Fund. The situation we might face is that we might not be able to carry out certain projects due to no funds during the year.

**TG:** Responded to say that most of the events that are on your POAs, do not even exceed R9000. Office of Academics had a lower Budget of R4500. Continued further to say that estimates were done when the Executive was going through POAs.

**Transformation:** Responded that probably the reason for low budgets on events is because TG has already requested us to be limited, maximum of 2 events being close to be impossible, POAs are being structured in such stance.

**TG:** Responded that she is not going to hold these issues against anyone, members should donate according to how they feel. She does not want to feel being the reason for a member's failure in their POA for the year.

**SF:** Asked about when we need to confirm our budgets for Toolbank and if the R200000 is not a set stone, in the event if the R200000 is not given to the Study aid fund, how are we going to maneuverer.

**Academics 1:** Responded that considering the budget being quite low. Mere





educated donation. Enquired also if we are allowed to raise funds within our portfolios, finding sponsorships, raised for own cost centres.

**FSS:** Asked in an example if a portfolio has a budget request of R7000 from their POA, is TG going to giving the R7000 or a leeway, exact amount or same amount as requested.

**Academics 2:** Proposed that according to budgets submitted, since TG said no budget can exceed R10000. Suggested that what remains from the SRC budget can go to the Study aid fund and also, we should allow room for certain portfolios to create drives to be able to be sustained for the year. A further possible donation or what remains on the cost centre to Study Aid Fund.

**Transformation:** Asked that with the Study Aid Fund if we are looking at assisting students with registration. Proposed donating towards the end of our term, and all amounts that remain can be utilized in the following year's registration. Raised a concern that what we are predicting might factually go over or be less.

**TG:** Responded to SF, that we should equally donate in this sitting. What we donate will determine on what every portfolio is allocated. One can ask for money if they run out of budget during the year from another portfolio. Responded to Academics 1 that today is the donation day, if not today we are not going to have money, working against such time constraints, we will not have operational amounts for this quality, Apologies for the pressure, however noted that we were working against time. Responded to FSS and Office of academics that we do not have time, if we are looking for people to register, we do not have time to go to the drawing board.

**Pres:** Noted that one member will not use the whole R18000 amount. If you come with cheap things, then you can add. Mentioned that Transformation's suggestion is not possible as we must help students at the beginning of the year. Stated that members should go knock on doors for sponsors and money, everyone should try to hustle from companies. Always get a sponsor to sponsor your event first before considering your cost centre.

**Academics 2:** Asked if in the budget, the office that hosts the Save the Semester, will it be allocated the same as well.

**Pres:** Responded to Academics 1 that Save the semester, is a portfolio event.

**Societies :** Asked if the Study Fund Aid will giving R5000 and R2500 being allocated from the 3 million that is with the Financial Aid Office.

**Sports:** Enquired that since we have requested an additional donation of R200000, will the balance remaining from last year be requested to go to the portfolios cost centres or the Study Aid Fund.

**TG:** Responded to say that it is going to the Study aid fund.

**Pres:** Noted that the SRC does not help with Postgraduate students only Faculties can assist.

**DSG:** Has these calculations being made.

**TG:** Responded to say that they have been made.

**Pres:** Requested that the SRC donates a further R100000.

**Academics 2:** I'd we say 60 student to be assisted.

Res 1: 60 students

**SF:** Enquired about when did the figure jump to R300000.

**SF:** Enquired that instead of the original R200000, can it not change and after all



portfolios have sorted themselves out with the budgets, what remains can be donated to the Study Aid Fund.

**Transformation:** Asked, on what happens after we have assisted students to enter the university, do they have the means to be part of the university, what is our long term plan.

**TG:** Responded to say that we cannot go back to the drawing board, it has to be tonight. We are not going to put students under, that is the reason we agreed to a partnership with SAUJS, asking and finding other means.

**Pres:** Responded that the Financial Aid to be considered as well. We will see throughout the course of the year. Stated that we are not an SRC for this quarter but for the whole year.

**Academics 2:** Raised a concern that cannot have the abstain on this voting activity for the donation, we have to have members who do donate and who say no to donate only

**Pres:** voting agreement R200K

1. Yes we donate = 17
2. No do not donate =0
3. Abstain. =0

**Pres:** ruling We will donate the 200K

**Pres:** Issue of

**Pres:** voting agreement R100000.

1. Yes, we donate = 17
2. No do not donate =0
3. Abstain. =0

**Pres:** Noted that we have donated R300K to the Study aid fund. Proudly thanked everyone for donating we have helped students who had nothing.

**DP:** Enquired when we were to open the Study aid fund.

**TG:** Responded that a Google link will be open on Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> of February till Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of February. On Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup>, the Finance Task will sit to go through the names and criteria.

**SF:** Asked for 3 days Criteria to be sent tonight as we are pressed for time. Stated that this criterion will be determine by the SF and TG.

**Academics 2:** Raised a concern that it is unfair to open it for 3 days it is a rush hours of some sort. Mentioned that he did not understand the sense of agency. Inquired that since registration closes on the 17<sup>th</sup>, are the measures put in place, for it to be able to reach people who really deserve it. Stated that 3 days is not enough and unfair as takes time for information that reach students. Secondly, he commented that on the Criteria, dos the SRC have a say in it, or is it TG and SF to determine it.

**TG:** Responded and said that we are dealing with adults, and stated that unfortunately we are pressed for time, it's not our fault, we have things to do. We must sort out our issues and mentioned that it will not be productive to send the communication out in by Wednesday.



**Pres:** Responded and said that he agrees with Academics 2 in terms of students not able to get the word in time, he does not feel that we will be doing justice. We should give them 5 days, included the weekend. Noted that SRC Study Aid Fund will open form on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February till the 10<sup>th</sup>, then we close the Google Form.

**DP:** Enquired on the reason why we do not open the form from Monday till Friday. Mentioned that last year it opened for a month and students got an opportunity to apply, however it took time for the money to appear on the finance side from ToolBank.

**TG:** Suggested that we close it on Wednesday, to go through applications between Thursday and Friday. Form to be sent out and open tomorrow.

**Transformation:** Asked if there was a pre-existing criterion.

**Pres:** Stated that the Criterion to be argued on the What's App.

**Academics 2:** Asked for the form to be released tomorrow, the form as it's a Google form, as long as for a longer period.

**SG:** Mentioned that there should be more support for the fundraising proposal and use the data to help students who will not qualify for the SRC Study Aid Fund. HE continued to further state that we should have hope and faith that we will raise more money for the study finance office during the year.

**Pres:** Responded and said, that might not work.

**Academics 2:** Enquired about, if confirmation of funds can serve as proof for the hold to be lifted.

**TG:** Responded and said that the criterion is to prioritize final years.

**Pres:** Asked if the Google form will be released tomorrow.

**TG:** Asked for no arguments on this issue.

**Pres:** Provide MMC with Faculty Marketing Portfolios.

**SF:** Responded and said that it will be finalized tonight, hopefully tomorrow 1pm we can send out the link.

**Academics 1:** Responded and said that ideally sharing with Chairpersons would be a better way going forward.

**DP:** Suggested that a poster be created to go around at 8am on Friday morning on our social media for them to be on the lookout for the Study Aid fund form.

**Pres:** Enquired if MMC has access to Click UP.

**MMC:** Responded and confirmed that they do have access to Click-UP and they will be working on it. He said they should be able to post at 1pm tomorrow.

**Pres:** Noted that Friday, 12pm it must be sorted.

## 9. Weekly updates on the functioning of the Task Teams:

### 9.1 Academics

**Academics 1:** Gave an Update in terms general nature of activities in the task team. Mentioned that faculties closed appeals and there has been a to review of appeals. Students are now asking about their outcomes. Three faculties have re-opened their appeal submissions, and have worked on case-by-case basis to remind students to send their appeals. On Faculty House meeting outcomes, there has been a high





influx of inquiries. The Faculties Appeals committees have cancelled their 1st appeals meetings and stated that students should be made aware. Communication to be released regarding the senate review. Mentioned that they will be working with the Registrar. Major issues to be discussed are EBIT, summer school, certain criteria to add mining students, worked with the EBIT faculty house, how to improve in faculty house procedures, admissions, DESA issues and processes. Education faculty transfer outcomes, communication with HOD of Education.

**Pres:** Faculty of Law deals with it on a case-by-case basis.

## 9.2 Finance

**TG:** Gave an update on the finance task team. Mentioned that business was as usual. The SF was in both Hatfield and Groenkloof campuses to get holds to be lifted for education students, short fall for NSFAS, were we are dealing with these case by case. Fundraising task team should be running in 2 weeks.

**SF:** Responded and added that Education students have started with practical's and NSFAS have not paid their fees. She went to Ronel where she was dealing with it on a case by case basis. Some holds were lifted, and others remained in place. Reasons are students owing Summer School fees and breakages from their residences, where NSFAS doesn't cover that. She will be returning to Ronel at 1pm tomorrow. With regards to historical debt, she will be meeting with Mr Ayanda Simelane, tomorrow morning at 9am. On Financial Aid she explained on how it works, where students need to be informed that the first thing, they need to be apply for is the university's financial aid. If a student has not applied, the student will be skipped. Ayanda will be skipped if not applied for Financial Aid. If verification on the financial aid application has not started, a student needs to contact SSC as they are the only ones that can fast track the process.

**Pres:** Noted that students on the Financial Aid are not verified yet, there should be a fast-track of those applications, check of validity, made aware, as there is high risk of being missed.

**Pres:** Mentioned that he will be having a meeting with the Executive Management on allowing of final-year students to register with no debt and with debt. Will be meeting them next week.

## 9.3 Accommodation

**Residences 1:** Gave an update about the residences task team. Mentioned that they have a Division System within their task team, to oversee Tuksres and UP accredited private Sub-council. On Tuksres update, first thing, they have supplied us with the excel spreadsheet, the President has access to it. This allows easy escalation of student issues. Last week Monday, most students got placed and those who were not placed are those who have not applied for a degree or registered. Waiting to receive another update.

**Residences 2:** Mentioned that TuksRes is over 95% full, Meeting with Mr Legare soon. NSFAS enquiries to be followed through that their NSFAS to be approved.

**Residences 1:** Responded and said that the meeting with Tuksres on the Private accommodation, committee will further the statement, applied to be exempted, from this R45000 accommodation cap. Tuksres have mentioned that even if this R45000



exemption does not go through, they will prioritize students' need over profit. It is not guaranteed that placement will be available.

**TG:** Noted that there is a problem with the Residences Levy, holds lifted, those don't have Res Levy preventing them from registering. When they inquired with TuksRes, they denied, and mentioned that they cannot lift holds because it is something pertaining to the Finance Department. Furthered to stated that it is a back and forth between Finance and TuksRes about the Res Levy.

**Residences 1:** Note Tuksres has no jurisdiction on holds, the only thing they can do is to place people. They can't go into the system for any finance issues, the finance department has to deal with it.

**SF:** Adding and clarified that she personally went to Finance and made them aware of that problem, students had their registration lifted, but the Res levy is stays on the account. She further mentioned that the residence part of TuksRes uses a different system that cannot be interfered with, so this results to a back-and-forth situation.

**Residence 1:** Suggested that the SRC drafts an email to address both TuksRes and relevant stakeholders.

**Pres:** Noted that an email must be sent.

**Academics 2:** Enquired if students with cancelled placements can be re-instated.

**Residences 2:** Responded and said that they should be able to apply.

**Residences 1:** Responded and said that the student should email TuksRes placements. What will happen is that they will be put back to a residence. Gave an overview update on Rise as being soft on the matter of the R45000 cap, where it is considering to drop to R4500, however it needs to be able to revoke and raise the prices again if ever the cap is increased as a result of the exemption letter. Mentioned that the only concern is that one cannot revoke such a policy. Every other residence openly mentioned that they rather lock their doors to NSFAS students.

**Transformation:** Explained that they were arrogantly dismissed by the owners of these accommodations. Where we were unsuccessfully, we were requested to come with a UP Personnel.

**Sports:** Mentioned that a lot has been happening, advertisements of communes, we are not sure if they are UP accredited, like Fundi students can stay anywhere. Secondly students have been approaching us, with harsh words, parents calling us. Continued to explain that students are taking the shutdown seriously. Suggested that the Residence Task Team release a statement updating the students on the progress we have made.

**Pres:** Suggested that there be a report to Dr J and also on the statement about what happened with the meetings from Monday with TuksRes management, NSFAS related with Gugu and representatives from private accommodation.

**Pres:** Suggested that a draft of the statement be sent in morning. Noted of meetings that were taking place with TMM at 9am and the Fields at 1pm. The statement shall be released later, by end of day tomorrow.

**Societies:** Enquired about where we stand as the SRC from the proposed protest.

**Pres:** Responded and said that a mass meeting must be set around the 8th of February. He furthered and said that we condemn the thing of students having to protest. Striking is not a nice thing. It should be a last resort.





**TG:** Responded and said that we should prepare ourselves for the worst if NSFAS or the private accommodations do not agree what will be our next step.

**SG:** Responded and said that we should not be a reactive SRC. We should engage and rather focus on finding solutions to these challenges we are faced with. He furthered to mention that we cannot always protest, but we should also try to fight these stakeholders if ever they show no remorse to our concerns, if its taking accreditation away, let it be our solution.

**Pres:** Responded and said that protesting will just give them a fair warning if they do not drop the prices.

**RAG:** Explained that Feenstra will not drop, chances are very low.

**Academics 2:** Mentioned that the real question, would be the outcomes that the applications have made because of this, other avenues should be explored for example the top up system or the university leasing some of the accommodations' buildings.

**SG:** Noted that the institution can dictate and de-accredit accommodations. Acknowledged that the institution to power to influence the prices down.

**Academics 1:** Enquired if the idea of the mass meeting will be of maximum benefit before, we can engage in it and commented that we should further consultant each other with the constitution.

**Pres:** Noted that students must stay where they want however some of the NSFAS accredited accommodations do not meet the necessary requirements, such as Wi-Fi, basic electricity, and provision of transportation. Mentioned that the SRC seats on the accreditation policy committee. Stated that Respublica said, they are not willing to drop prices, but they are willing if the university can subsidies.

**Societies:** Mentioned that these accommodations are making students sign AODs, to acknowledge debt.

**Rag:** Suggested the system of Online Learning to be considered as a possible solution.

**DP:** Noted that we are fighting for students, ideas, and all that, as we get closer to the commencement of classes residences will be full and we really need to hear from the masses. He mentioned that we need to see if the university can provide buses, to the areas that are accredited which are not in Hatfield.

**Pres:** Mentioned that poor people don't deserve to live in uncomfortable situations, if they can afford, if they have to top up, that situation puts them in a position to be kicked out.

**Societies:** Noted that after feedback from our accommodation pool of accreditation, people can't afford rates as high as R7000 where also their conditions are very bad. We need to find a way to pull away accreditation.

**Pres:** Stated that if two or three of the accommodations agree with decrease in their rent, we should give them the business, for example Rise has 900 beds, 200 are left, where we have about 9000 NSFAS students.

**Societies:** Noted that time is an issue.

**Transformation:** Responded on and mentioned that Rise has 4 sharing, 744 reserved beds. 230 beds opened.

**Pres:** Mentioned that the solution can be that the university must top up the students but leasing the building.



**SG:** Enquired if there were any proposed solution from the meeting we had with the management of these private accomodations.

**External Campuses:** Responded and said that we join hands with other universities and speak to NSFAS.

**Transformation:** Responded and said that they mentioned that if the university is willing to meet them halfway and they find external sponsors to contribute to the top up, then there will be a way forward.

**Pres:** Suggested that we have all of them sit in one single room, in a meeting setting.

**Transformation:** Noted about having to meeting together will all of them.

**Pres:** Noted that there is an association these private residences are part of.

**SG:** Suggested that we explore other ways to help to influence the prices by possibly having to assist them with tax benefits and using that to benefit our request or mission.

**FSS:** Responded and mentioned that they do have Corporate Social Responsibility.

**Pres:** Explained that students will be angry and are looking at us to give them a solution. We should be tough, if we feel like insults are too much, we should express our concerns with him.

#### 9.4 Marketing and social media

**MMC:** Gave an updated on the Marketing Task Team. Stated that there was nothing much as the issues are like what has been shared, pertaining to the NSFAS R45000 cap and NSFAS appeal outcome for most of the queries.

**Pres:** Requested that we answer emails SRC members and respond to students.

**MMC:** Mentioned that students are complaining on social media about the responding time of SRC Members on emails. Mentioned that he has a meeting with Tuks FM, about the Freshers and JazziQ team come on board for O-week or Freshers. About the usage of Piazza, he is waiting for feedback from the station manager.

**Culture:** Noted that sponsorship at UP is a difficult process as already there are sponsors in place, there are possibilities of violating certain agreements that already exist with those sponsors. Suggested that we find out what they want from us, make sure there is a written track record. They furthered and said that we should work closely with the DIA.

**Pres:** Gave a 5-minute recess.

#### 10. Wits Freshers Invite:

**SG:** Mentioned that the UP SRC has been invited by the Wits SRC for a freshers event that will take place on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February. Encouraged that everyone attends in also concluding the held desk period with some fresh air.

**SRC:** There was a consensus that those who would like to attend will confirm their availabilities.

#### 13. Other raising matters

**Academics 2:** Explained that Help desk, has been fruitful we see members still availing themselves. Encouraged members to follow the schedule and avail



ourselves. Mentioned that about 70 students have been admitted. Encouraged the SRC to ensure that it does not tie out. Encouraged the SRC not to turn down student away before exhausting all options first.

**Pres:** Thanked everyone for squeezing in through to help, thanked members of Council for their dedication and the Residences task team for successful placements.

**DP:** Explained that there is an influx of students coming onto campus. Some students have access looking for SRC Building.

**Pres:** Noted that two SRC members to be at LC campus and the other two at Prospect gate and the rest of the members to attend office hours.

**Pres:** Stated that Help desk to continue in the coming week.

**DSG:** Announced that all apologies to be sent to the apologies email including the President.

#### 14. DIA Training

**SG:** Mention about a meeting he will be having with the Deputy Director of Marketing and Communication next week, and also requested the availability of the SRC to have training on the UP brand with DAI as we are the brand ambassadors.

**Academics 2:** Enquired if it is compulsory for everyone.

**TG:** Enquired if they will be paying us as the SRC.

**Rag:** Requested to send MMC to accompany the SG to this meeting.

**SG:** Stated that he is going to look into it.

**Pres:** Mentioned that the SG should be accompanied by the MMC or any member of the Marketing task team.

**SG:** Responded and said he will look into it.

#### 15. DC Election

**DP:** Secretariat will conduct with the voting.

#### 16. Other raising matters

**FSS:** Mention about an engagement he had with the Director of Facilities about the buses and everything that has to do with transportation. Mentioned that he spoke to security services about the possibility of students moving out of Hatfield because of the NSFAS issue. He requested for actual statistics as they are requested by the department. Announced that there will be an intense safety campaign from 13th February at 6am to the 25th of February, on Lunnun Road, streets around the Men's residence gate, Duxbury road and Burnett Streets.

**Pres:** Suggested that a communique about the project to be sent out.

**SG:** Mentioned about a meeting request from UP shop about launching a partnership with the SRC.

**Pres:** Noted that the Institutional forum has an executive committee, were we need to vote for the representatives.

#### Wi-Fi Problems:

The rest rejected the Nomination.

Sports and MMC were elected.





### 17. Time and date of next meeting

**Pres:** Wednesday and Thursday. 17h30pm. Still need to decide on the Mass meeting.

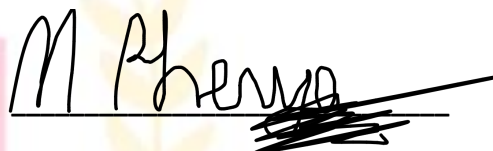
### 15. Closing

Meeting ended at 10h20

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.

