

SRC Ordinary Meeting Minutes

19 August 2020 | Google Meet | 16:30

1. **Welcoming and Opening:**
   1. The President opened the meeting once quorum was met (14:06).
2. **Attendance:**
   1. **Present:**
      1. SRC President
      2. SRC Secretary
      3. SRC Student Culture
      4. SRC Deputy President
      5. SRC Student Sport
      6. SRC Facilities, Safety & Security (FSS)
      7. SRC Treasurer
      8. SRC Residences 1
      9. SRC Academics 2
      10. SRC Academics 1
      11. SRC Marketing, Media & Communications (MMC)
      12. SRC RAG
      13. SRC Deputy Secretary
      14. SRC Postgraduate & International Affairs (PI)
      15. SRC Day Student & External Campus Affairs
   2. **Absent with apology:**
      1. SRC Societies
      2. SRC Study Finances (late excuse, procedure not followed)
      3. SRC Residences 2 (procedure not followed)

* 1. **Absent without apology:**
     1. SRC Transformation

1. **Acceptance of previous minutes and adoption of agenda:**
   1. Acceptance of previous Minutes
      1. N/A
   2. Adoption of agenda
      1. N/A
2. **Other matters arising:**
   1. SRC Day Student & External Campus Affairs
      1. Writing to the Executive on Physical Exams
         1. We should not wait for the university to announce on physical exams.
         2. We should state our position in advance.
         3. The SRC President referred to the Master Plan. Under level 2, there will not be any physical exams written on campus.
         4. Under level 1, 100% of students will be allowed to return to campus and by implication physical exams will have to be written.
         5. The SRC President asked that this be raised with Professor Duncan.
         6. The SRC FSS officer said that some students will be better off writing exams online than others and that all students must be accounted for.
         7. The SRC RAG officer said that students will be more equal when all of them can return and all of them are writing physical exams.
         8. The SRC Secretary agrees that the Executive must be made aware of the SRC’s view on exams. There are many practical issues revolving around the return of students e.g. many residence placements have been cancelled, many students will have to be forced (potentially against their will) to return to campus and write physical exams with the virus looming in the air.
         9. The Residences 2 officer agrees and added that the SRC should be proactive in engaging UP management on all pertinent issues.
         10. The SRC voted on the issue of **writing physical exams**. 4 members abstained, 7 voted in favour of online exams, 3 voted against online exams.
         11. The SRC Deputy President abstained because of the uncertainty of what the future holds.
         12. The SRC Residences 1 member highlighted that even physical exams would not be permitted under level 1 regulations which include limited students in venues, social distancing etc.
         13. The SRC FSS officer asked that the SRC also account for the impact that online June exams had on students i.e. caps on zero-rated networks, lack of online learning devices, data depletion, difficulty of exams etc.
         14. The SRC President stated that there are pros and cons to both physical and online exams. For that reason, the SRC should not yet make a definite decision in this regard.
         15. The SRC President concluded that lowering of alert levels allows for a greater number of students onto campus and therewith also access to a greater number of online facilities. We should evaluate the fluidity of the situation.
         16. Several other concerns were raised in the chat such as limited online facilities in private accommodations etc.
   2. SRC Study Finances
      1. NSFAS Unfunding
         1. 5000 students have apparently been unfunded due to exceeding the threshold.
         2. Students who have been unfunded and are able to prove the contrary (i.e. that the criteria was wrongly applied, and that the household income does qualify for funding and is below R350 000 p/a), their funding may be restored.
         3. The SRC Study Finance officer said that these students must be referred to her.
   3. SRC Residences 1
      1. Gender Based Violence Hotline
         1. There is currently a 24/7 emergency line at UP.
         2. This point was discussed in the final Institutional Forum meeting in 2019 where it was raised that there is a staff shortage.
         3. The SRC President suggested a 24/7 GBV hotline (like the careline mentioned in 4.3.1.1).
         4. The SRC should find an organisation that could assist with this initiative – one that specialises in GBV cases.
         5. The Residences 1 member recommended a hotline or a place where students could go if they do not feel safe.
         6. The SRC should be more visible and take a more proactive stance against GBV.
         7. The Deputy Secretary said that the emergency numbers above (at the back of our student cards) … the President interjected that the numbers on the back of our student cards is not the same as the careline numbers.
         8. The SRC FSS officer said we should highlight to Management how detrimental home circumstances are for many students.
         9. The SRC Student Culture member acknowledged that it is a lot of effort to involve [employees] to help with GBV. There is a high demand for help for students that are the subjects of GBV.
         10. We do not want a case where a student loses his or her life to GBV without us being as proactive as we can be.
      2. She is afraid the many students may be unaware of channels to follow if they are being subjected to GBV.
      3. The SRC Study Finance officer reiterated the previous point. She said that there should be a proper campaign to address issues around this social injustice. This campaign should not be a once-off thing, but a quarterly [regular] occurrence.
      4. The SRC President explained Speak Out and that its student volunteers have been trained on sensitive issues such as GBV.
      5. The SRC President will be engaging many stakeholders such as the Director of Student Counselling, the MMC task team etc.
      6. The SRC President said that the SRC Transformation officer should take lead on this matter and that other interested members may be linked up with her office to work on initiatives in this regard.
3. **Feedback from the Executive Committee:**
   1. N/A
4. **Portfolio-specific agenda points:**
   1. SRC President
      1. POA Update
         1. By the end of business on the **25th of August**, any changes to POA’s must be submitted to the SRC President.
         2. The SRC Postgraduate and International Affairs officer asked whether this POA is relevant to 2021 or limited to the end of December of this year.
         3. The SRC President responded that this matter must still be considered by the UP Executive (and potentially the Council as well). He added that POA’s should be drafted as if the SRC term ends this year.
   2. SRC Academics
      1. Feedback from SRC sub council meeting with the Executive
         1. The SRC Academic officers had a sub council meeting with the UP Executive.
         2. The three issues that are relevant. Firstly, students can be added to the waiting list in terms of the laptop project.
         3. No exclusions should have occurred for the first semester.
         4. Exclusions (in terms of the second semester) will still be considered.
         5. The Director of the DSA has mentioned that there are means to assists students with mental health issues. The Academics 2 officer will be contacting her in this regard.
         6. There was a donation from Dell to the DSA which has been channelled to get additional psychological support for students in need thereof.
   3. Deputy Secretary / MMC officer
      1. MMC Task Team
         1. In the beginning of this semester, the MMC task team realised that they could do more in terms of engaging students through social media platforms.
         2. The MMC task team had a meeting and drafted a plan on how to reach out to students.
         3. The ‘ask me’ icon on Instagram on Facebook and Instagram will be utilised.
         4. There will be weekly engagements with students over social media platforms.
         5. Each task team leader will receive the login details for the social media platforms whereby it will be more convenient for these leaders to answer relevant questions.
         6. The Deputy Secretary added that there will be marketing of this initiative.
         7. Faculty Houses, Residences, and Key Committees have been divided up between the 19 SRC members. SRC members are required to reach out to these structures and find out what events and initiatives they are planning which the SRC can support through e.g. attendance.
         8. A screen was shared on the meeting of SRC members and the Committees for which they will be responsible.
         9. The SRC President said he does not mind sending out a broadcast email to all Chairpersons informing them of this initiative and that the SRC will be contacting them shortly to find out where they can be supportive.
         10. The SRC President asked that the sub council heads and ex officio portfolio holders give the Chairpersons of the respective structures a heads up on this initiative.
         11. The Deputy Secretary recommended a deadline for the end of this week by when the SRC heads (6.3.1.10) must have contacted Chairpersons.
         12. The Student Culture member highlighted that last year’s SRC attempted this initiative and it was unsuccessful due to the perception that the SRC attempted to take over events. She made a subsequent recommendation that SRC members reassure these structures that they do not intend to take over these events.
         13. The MMC will be starting with its own initiative next week. They will be drafting a timetable.
5. **Time and date of next meeting:**
   1. Wednesday, 26 August at 16:00.
6. **Closing:**
   1. The meeting was concluded at 17:50.

**I, David Kabwa and Ryan Haines, hereby declare that these minutes serve as a true reflection of what transpired during this SRC meeting.**



