

SRC Online Meeting Minutes

7 May 2020 | Zoom | 10:00

1. **Welcoming and Opening:**
   1. The President welcomed everyone present at the meeting and went on to briefly explain the role that the Amnesty WhatsApp group has been playing during lockdown as well as the role it has attempted to play (e.g. direct communication with the Executive etc.). This is not an appropriate platform for accountability. The SRC President does not discourage any engagement on WhatsApp with students.
2. **Attendance:**
   1. **Present:**
   2. **Absent with apology:**

* 1. **Absent without apology:**

1. **Acceptance of previous minutes and adoption of agenda:**
   1. Acceptance of previous Minutes
   2. Adoption of agenda
2. **Other matters arising:**
   1. Study Finance Officer
      1. NSFAS Allowances
         1. A 1080 [sic] students responded to the Google Form that was circulated by the SRC.
         2. She forwarded this list to the Financial Team at UP and added that it is unacceptable. This is a very large number of students.
         3. She received a response to this email that we can have an online meeting and discussion of the matter.
         4. Students are very uninformed about NSFAS allowances and matters in terms thereof. She saw it fit to draft a FAQ list.
         5. The RAG Officer stated that several students are still awaiting their appeals and wanted to know if these students may receive clarity on the matter.
         6. The Study Finance Officer requested a meeting with the Deputy Director of Study Finance (Ronel) for tomorrow. She is awaiting a response. Perhaps, an email account for appeals could be created by which students may query the status of their appeals. This issue will be raised during tomorrow’s meeting with Ronel.
   2. Student Culture
      1. International Students
         1. This was raised on the WhatsApp group (see 4.2.2).
         2. “My matter arising was regarding the University releasing a survey for international students. I just find it extremely redundant and honestly just disrespectful. Two surveys were already released by the SRC and UPI. I personally sent the COO a break of these surveys so I don't understand why they are asking people the questions we have answers to.

@David Kabwa [sic] please could you just talk to Prof Mosia or whoever is responsible for this that they are not only highlighting the lack of communication amongst themselves as an executive, they are also just undermining all the work that the SRC and UPI has been doing through this time and it's completely unacceptable.”

* 1. Residences 2 (Sibo)
     1. Residence Feedback
        1. A statement will be forwarded by his office -
        2. The Residence Officers have minutes of a recent meeting held with UP residences. This will be publicised in the form of a statement through their offices.
        3. The Academics (2) Officer asked that the statement include a response to the issue that he has raised with them yesterday.
  2. Facilities, Safety and Security
     1. Delegation to Task Teams
        1. There are several core issues i.e. the Laptop project, the Residence Issues, Academic matters etc. and the FSS Officer believes that SRC members should be divided up into teams.
        2. This would ensure that members of the Council are effectively working together and cooperating.
        3. The SRC Secretary recommended establishing an email account for any matters relating to that specific issue.
        4. The SRC Secretary will be establishing a laptop email account and we will be operating in the same way we did during lockdown. The FSS Officer recommended that the teams’ tasks be changed and that it is not the same as it were during lockdown.
  3. Deputy President (this matter was dealt with by the SRC President).
     1. Constitutional Tribunal Constitution
        1. The SRC will have to approve of their amended Constitution.
        2. The President asked members to just be aware of this fact.
        3. The format is that we will be participating in a meeting hosted by the Tribunal.

1. **Feedback from the Executive Committee:**
2. **Agenda points:**
   1. **Update from COVID-19 Task Team**
      1. The Facilities, Safety and Security Officer (hereafter ‘FFS Officer’) gave feedback on this matter.
      2. The meeting that she recently attended entailed feedback in terms of the laptop project and discussions around the potential re-opening of residences.
      3. Students may be allowed back in a prioritized manner e.g. medical students will be allowed back first, thereafter other classes of students (i.e. undergraduate students and postgraduate students etc.) will be considered.
      4. The screening of Covid-19 when the University re-opens for contact classes was also discussed during the aforesaid meeting. Essentially all students will have to be screened on a daily basis. This matter is a work in progress.
      5. She inquired about TMM Lofts (and private accommodations in general). UP Residences only have control (and only to a limited extent) over accredited accommodations.
      6. 6200 simultaneous uses of Connect URL at the same time.
      7. The issue of protective gear such as masks were also discussed but the supply hereof (and the source of this supply itself) is still being deliberated on.
      8. Any suggestions of who should be prioritized in terms of returning to UP should be submitted to the FFS Officer. Surveys will also be sent to students on this issue.
      9. The Deputy Secretary appreciates the SRC’s more extensive involvement in discussions.
      10. The Academics Officer thanked the FSS Office for this update. He highlighted that final year students should be prioritized in the same manner that the basic education sector is prioritizing certain grades. He will be forwarding the SRC an email in this regard.
      11. The Residences Officer (1) asked which stakeholders in terms of Up residences participated in the aforementioned meeting.
      12. The FSS Officer responded that on person
   2. Benchmarking Idea
      1. The FSS Officer received a direct message from Stellenbosch University SRC in terms of potential benchmarking.
      2. For various reasons, she opines that it is necessary to outsource ideas.
      3. She thinks that a Zoom meeting with other SRC’s would lift the morale of the SRC and encourage us to come up with innovative ideas.
      4. The Student Culture briefly alluded to the logistics of such meetings, with which universities we will be benchmarking, who would be chairing such meetings etc.
      5. The President believes that organising such a meeting should be done through the office of the Marketing, Media and Communications Officer (hereafter ‘MMC Officer’).
   3. Laptop Project
      1. The SRC cannot account for the disappointment of students if they are not assisted with the laptop project.
      2. The Deputy Director of TuksSport stated that only two students within his department have been assisted with devices for online learning. The FFS Officer has raised the issue with the SRC President.
      3. The Academic Officer believes that the Executive is possibly not considering students for the laptop project anymore. The link for applications is not working.
      4. The FSS Officer mentioned that receiving an SMS from the University is a good point of departure.
      5. The FSS Officer recommended that the Faculties and its underlying departments should assist with the laptop project if the Executive is not able to.
      6. If your application (through our lists) was successful, you would receive a call from the university in order for them to verify their postal address.
      7. The Deputy Secretary stated that it would not feasible for the SRC to assist with the purchasing and provision of online learning devices – how would we identify students? And our funds are limited.
      8. The Deputy President also responded to the suggestion of laptops being provided by Faculties.
   4. Communication
      1. The Deputy Secretary raised this point and went on to briefly explain what it entails.
      2. She feels that we owe it to students to be accountable and for that reason saw it fit to create our own accountability platform.
      3. The Facilities, Safety and Security Officer said that the group is not intended to lambast the SRC but rather to seek answers.
      4. The Deputy Secretary says we need to draw up a list of ‘demands’ of what the SRC wants. This list must be drafted and submitted in good faith e.g. the Connect URL is not working, what is an alternative solution that the Executive has to this issue.
      5. The RAG Officer agrees that communication and transparency is good. The problem is that when the SRC is in meetings, the issues are never addressed and less so resolved. She believes that drawing up more lists would be redundant if it carries on this way.
      6. The Deputy Secretary believes that a list or statement must be drafted in which the SRC states that it is not content with the way things are going.
      7. The SRC Societies have been receiving a few queries with zero-rated sites. She attempted to phone the call centre. The first few calls went to voice note.
      8. They were informed that the zero-rated link can only be accessed through a phone and not a laptop.
      9. The SRC Secretary also raised the issue that a list of demands and requests and concerns should be drafted and submitted to the Executive and that they should properly account for every aspect in it. If they don’t, they should do it during the online meeting.
      10. The Residences (1) Officer said that not all SRC members are involved as much as they should. She agreed that we engage with them in a straightforward manner in the online meetings.
      11. The Deputy Secretary asked that we vote on the matter.
      12. She also highlighted that Management cannot throw in the confidentiality aspect. The SRC will have to be transparent on the responses received by Management.
      13. 9/12 members voted for the drafting and publication of a list of concerns. The deadline for submissions from the SRC is tomorrow at 12:00 (noon). They will send their submissions via private message to the SRC Secretary.
      14. At the end of the meeting, the SRC President will be sending a time and date for the next meeting.
3. **Time and date of next meeting:**
   1. N/A
4. **Closing:**
   1. N/A

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



