

## **SRC COUNCIL MEETING**

**DATE: 27 FEBRUARY 2023 TIME: 18H30 VENUE: RA ROOM**

### **AGENDA**

2023.14.01. Welcome and Attendance.

2023.14.02. Leave of Absences.

2023.14.03. Confirmation of Minutes.

2023.14.04. Declaration of Minutes.

2023.14.05. Matters Arising.

5.1 Retraction of statements by Vice Chancellor.

2023.14.06. NSFAS Sports and Societies Sign Ups.

2023.14.07. Thuma Mina Project.

2023.14.08. Reports

8.1. Disability Committee.

2023.14.09. Student Development and Support Officer.

2023.14.10. Other Matters Arising.

2023.14. 11. Closure.

2023.14.12. Date of Next Meeting TBA.

## **MINUTES**

### **2023.14.01 WELCOME & ATTENDANCE**

Mr Secretary-General welcomed everyone and announced that he was the one chairing the meeting since Ms President and Ms Vice-president were not present. The SRC Oath is then read aloud by all the Council members present.

#### Present:

- President: Ms. Avuxeni Tyala (noted to arrive late)
- Vice President: Ms. Putuma Balintulo
- Secretary-General: Mr. Lazarus Kgageng
- Treasurer- General: Mr. Siyanda Nolala
- International Affairs: Ms. Tsidzo Hove
- Academic: Ms. Tshepo Malebana (noted to arrive late)
- Activism and Transformation: Mr. Ibabale Sobekwa
- Community Engagement: Mr. Lihle Manene
- Environmental: Mr. James Njoloza
- Media: Ms. Nqobile Makamu
- Oppidan: Mr. Adrian February
- Projects Manager: Mr. Varshan Pillay
- Sports & Societies: Mr, Buhle Luthuli (Arrived late)
- Student Benefits & Sponsorships: Mr. Indiphile Ralo
- Residence: Mr. Simphiwe Mnyande
- Student Development and Support Officer: Mr. Eric Ofei

### **2023.14.02 LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

No Leave of Absence was submitted.

### **2023.14.03 Confirmation of Minutes**

The previous minutes were confirmed with amendments. Ms International Affairs confirmed them, and Ms Media seconded the confirmation.

### **2023.14.04 Declaration of Conflict**

There was no conflict declared.

### **2023.14.05 Matters Arising**

#### Retraction of a statement by the Vice-Chancellor

The Vice-Chancellor had to retract his statement on the 800 thousand Rand donation without consultation with the SRC Council. Ms President was meant to cc Mr Secretary-General on the email she sent to the Vice-Chancellor regarding the Vice-Chancellor retracting his statement, but Mr Secretary-General has yet to receive that email.

#### Update on Dingemans

On Thursday, Mr Residence and Ms Media visited Dingemans House and met with the students. The students expressed that they were not impressed with the situation as they felt that nothing would be done with what was happening. They also reported another flooding that took place recently, which exacerbated the current situation. They then stated that they wanted an external engineer employed by Rhodes University to go and inspect Dingemans. They further stated that if the inspector did not come by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>, March 2023, they would peacefully protest with their sister residences (Hobson Hall) to the Admin Building on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023. Mr Residence provided feedback to Council that Mr Van Dyk wanted a meeting on Wednesday with Ms President and the other relevant structures of the University to ask if an external engineer would be employed.

Hands rose from the Council, and the Chair took note of the hands in a round of three hands. Ms Vice President applauded Mr Residence and Ms Media on their work. Ms Vice President expressed that the SRC must support the Hall on the protest. Ms Vice President suggested that the meeting on Wednesday must be scheduled for after 17h00 so that it did not coincide with lectures. Ms Vice President also asked about other solutions on the matter. Mr Residence responded directly to Ms Vice President that there were alternative

solutions to the matter, such as moving Dingemans students to a residence that is almost done being renovated. Mr Residence, however, stated that the Dingemans students were not happy with moving and therefore proposed having an external engineer. Ms International Affairs (hereinafter, Ms International) stated that the relevant structures of the University must be held accountable as the University needs proper infrastructure. Mr Residence provided a point of information that he had a meeting with the maintenance people, and a suggestion of putting sewerage pipes under the Dingemans rooms instead of running inside people's rooms was brought up. These pipes would have to be changed during the July vacation. Mr Van Dyk provided information to Mr Residence that the University did not own all of the property that Rhodes was built on. The Sewerage issue is thus problematic as it is property belonging to the Makana Municipality. Ms Media commented that she did not think there was feasibility in the external engineers coming on Friday.

A second round of hands went up, and the Chair noted them. Mr Environment suggested that since there was still the Thuma Mina project, how about external auditors got called to audit whether residence students were charged a reasonable amount for their accommodation fees, considering that there are many maintenance issues in residences. Mr Community Engagement raised a point that the staff were absent on vacation, and that could be seen as the grass was not cut during vacation. He further raised a point that there was a reason for the pipes not to be underground in the first place. Ms Media pointed out that the mental health of the Dingemans students is negatively affected as the students were on the verge of crying during the meeting. Mr Residence has yet to email the Vice-Chancellor about the Dingemans issue. He asked Council to wait for the outcome of Wednesday's meeting so that he can email the Vice-Chancellor based on the meeting on Wednesday. Ms International implored Mr Residence to have background information and research on the matter so that he could have a strong argument. The Chair posed that Mr Residence, Ms Media, and Ms President halted taking the matter to the Vice-Chancellor until they had the meeting on Wednesday. The Council reached a general consensus that the Vice-Chancellor would be emailed after the meeting on Wednesday.

The Council was then faced with the question of whether they would take part in the Dingemans march. Ms Vice President supported the march on the grounds that there was a

clear goal of the march. Mr Environment asked Mr Residence if he had consolidated a digital report that would be presented to the infrastructure, and if he had, then the SRC could go to the march. Mr Residence responded to Mr Environment that he had consolidated a digital report comprising all the residences and not just Dingemans. Ms Vice President reminded the Council that Dingemans is not really part of Thuma Mina but an emergency and asked for the students of Dingemans to have testimonials on the issue. Mr Student Benefits and Sponsorships (hereinafter, Mr Benefits) was captured by Ms Vice President and stated that he supported having a report tabulated for the march. Ms Media replied that each Dingemans student that had a problem sent it to the warden. Therefore, a report is there, and it needs to be consolidated by herself and Mr Residence after that, send to the university. The Council agreed on this.

Mr Benefits said the Council should have a clear stance on the march. Mr Community Engagement (hereinafter, Mr Community) highlighted that the University would only recognise Dingemans if they went there with the SRC and therefore, the SRC must be at the forefront. Ms Media responded directly to Mr Community that she did not know her stance on her role as the Dingemans students are conflicted due to some wanting to be moved and others not wanting to be moved. With this, she said she did not want to be in a march that did not have explicit goals. Mr Projects Manager (hereinafter Mr Projects) raised whether the SRC and Dingemans had the same goals and motives. Mr Treasurer-General asked for clarity on the march– the university looking at issues of Dingemans or the moving of the Dingemans students. Mr Residence responded that the march was to hold management accountable, and the overall main goal was to have Dingemans inspected by an external engineer. A motion was tabled to the floor.

Motion: That the SRC supported the march after having full internal information.

For: Eight Council members voted for the motion.

Against: No Council member voted against the motion.

Abstain: Three Council members abstained.

The Chair passed the motion to support the march with internal information.

The Vice President mentioned that a statement should be sent out to the student body about the Dingemans matter but also stated that Thuma Mina was still happening so that other residences did not come up and say they were being neglected.

Mr Residence responded that the statement was a good idea and must not cause that panic. The Council reached a consensus that a statement should be released, not mention residences other than Dingemans and that the statement should reassure the student body of Thuma Mina still taking place.

#### **2022.14.06 NSFAS Sports & Societies sign ups**

Mr Sports & Societies (hereinafter, Mr Sports) came with a report that there was a message that said NSFAS-funded students could not sign up for sports and societies due to the bursary not paying for the sports and societies. Mr Sports then inquired from sis Thami about this, and sis Thami replied that NSFAS could not subsidise students. There was a document that sis Thami had about this. Mr Sports took it upon himself to consult with Mamu Noma and Mr Vika, and they both expressed the importance of Rhodes students partaking in sports and societies. He further provided feedback that he has resorted to asking the University to subsidise the NSFAS-funded students. Now, motivation for the University to use a portion of the residence and tuition money to subsidise these students was needed. Mr Sports then requested two Council members to assist with a way forward. Mr Secretary-General replied that he wanted feedback on everything and the document from sis Thami by Wednesday, 12h00 noon. Ms Vice President commended Mr Sports on his efforts to find a solution to the matter but expressed concern that Mr Sports should have informed the Council first before consulting the University. Ms International availed herself of being part of the committee that would draft the proposal to management. Ms Vice President said that she might have to avail herself to oversee the committee as it might deal with policies, although she is not committing yet. Mr Secretary-General told Mr Sports that he would need to know who was in the task team and the team's goals.

#### **2022.14.07 Thuma Mina Project**

The executive had sat to do due diligence on the Thuma Mina Project. A draft delegation list got sent to Council members to be used in the interim, as the Council still needed to sit to adopt or oppose the delegation list. Mr Residence made the allocations of the list. Mr

Activism showed concern regarding the allocation list as the delegates were not consulted for their schedules. Ms Vice President explained that the delegation list was a draft and that since the Thuma Mina happened at 18h00, Mr Ofei had said that people would only be excused from duty on academic grounds. Since some Council members could not attend on their duty day, Ms Vice President said Council members would only be held accountable from today onwards as the delegation list being used so far was only a draft. Ms Treasurer-General clarified that the executive had deciding powers on the delegation list as the list was done after hours when the rest of the Council was unavailable. Mr Residence also clarified that in the previous Council meeting, the Council had reached a consensus to adopt the delegation draft as Thuma Mina commenced a day late.

Ms International reminded the Council that the grazzle for Postgraduate Affairs and SRC Hall Representatives was taking place tomorrow. Therefore, it was not feasible for Thuma Mina to happen tomorrow, so she asked that tomorrow's slot be amended due to the project. Mr Residence said that only three Council members were going to Thuma Mina, so the rest of the Council could go to the grazzle.

The Council reached a consensus on the delegation list with some amendments. Mr Oppidan would not be available on weekends. Ms Vice President offered to take Mr Opidan's weekend slots. Mr Projects pointed out that there was a wrong date on the delegation list. Ms Vice President suggested that Council members that would not be available for their slot ask someone to step in for them and that Councillors could be swapped. The Council reached a consensus on these amendments to the delegation list.

## **2023.14.08 Reports**

### **8.1 Disability Committee**

Activism took the report as read and allowed Council to ask questions but there were no questions asked.

## **2023.14.09 Student Development and Support Officer**

### **Teamwork**

Mr Ofei commended Mr Sports for his hard work but addressed Mr Sports for not involving the other Council members in cleaning up after the Sport & Societies sign-up night. He also

directed this to other portfolios and said he wanted to see people taking responsibility for their portfolios.

#### Robert Rules

Mr Ofei told the Council that he needed to do Robert's Rule lesson with the Council either at the retreat or on a weekend before they left for the retreat.

#### SRC visibility

Mr Ofei said that the SRC needed to be more visible and post more on its social media pages. He advised the SRC to sell themselves with success stories by putting a statement immediately when they solved a complaint from the student body.

#### Leave procedure

Mr Ofei told the Council that their term of office is six months, and they had two weeks of leave. A person cannot take a leave in the week before SWOT week. A Council member could take more than two weeks of leave, but some of the honorarium they received would be taken away. If Councillors were absent for over a month, they had to step down. Mr Ofei further stated that the two weeks' leave should not be taken at once. When a Councillor is on leave, someone in the executive must be in charge of the portfolio of the Councillor on leave. Furthermore, an automated response needed to be done by the concerned portfolio.

#### Council member on leave

The Council decided that a Council member on leave did not exit the SRC Whatsapp group, but instead, they muted and archived the groups.

#### IEC duty roster

Mr Ofei asked that the IEC roster be put up.

#### Reminders from Mr Ofei

Mr Ofei reminded Council to send him the teams' strengths and weaknesses and that he needed them by next week Wednesday. He also reminded the SRC that they needed to make payment from their honoraria.

#### Extension for submitting O-Week report



Several Council members requested an extension on submitting the O-Week report as there needed to be more clarity on who had to submit the report and that the meeting took too long. Mr Ofei clarified that everyone had to submit a report, but if a portfolio had an event during O-Week, then they wrote about it.

The Council voted on when the deadline for the report should be. The two motions were “Hand in on Friday at 23h59” or “Submit report within 24 hours”. Nine people voted for the submission to be on Friday, 23h59, and two people voted for the submission to be within 24 hours. Three members chose to abstain. The motion to submit on Friday at 23h59 was passed.

#### Request for Mr Ofei’s presence

Mr Sports requested that Mr Ofei be more present in their Council meetings so that he could provide guidance. Mr Ofei duly noted this.

#### SRC uniform

Mr Sports mentioned that some Council members did not have pants to wear with their SRC uniform.

### **2023.14.10 Other Matters Arising**

#### Mural wall

Ms Media informed Council that people had approached her from the Fine Arts Department who asked her if they could paint on the mural wall, and she agreed. The theme that they painted was the fauna and flora of the Eastern Cape. Ms Media also stated that the painting would be there until the end of March. Mr Projects asked who paid for the paints, and Ms Media responded that all the costs came from the pockets of the people who approached her. Mr Ofei informed the Council that the mural wall could be used by the SRC and societies that wanted to paint on the wall as long as they covered the costs of painting on the wall.

#### **Feedback from the President**

#### Registration Task Team

Ms President requested the Council to forward to her the students' emails that might have sent registration issues to them. She also asked the Task Team to email her and that the cases and availabilities must be sent by 23h59.

#### Update on the IEC meeting

Ms President informed the Council that she had a meeting with the IEC today and that the IEC wanted heavy media. She also said that advertising would start on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March. Each SRC member was asked to send their schedule for the 7<sup>th</sup> of March.

Ms Media responded that she was working with the comms division and waiting on IEC for their IEC poster. Mr Sports suggested that the SRC request ballot boxes from IEC to be placed all over campus to create hype. Mr Projects also said that suggestion boxes could be done to hype students to vote. Ms President informed the Council that IEC was already registering students to vote around campus.

#### Feedback from Red Bull

Ms President gave feedback that Red bull wanted to do a competition this coming Thursday and that the winner would go to Amsterdam.

Mr Ofei pointed out that the person who should have brought the Red Bull competition to the Council was Mr Projects, and Mr Projects responded that he had brought it to Council last week.

Ms President informed the Council that Red Bull disagreed with having the SRC logo on the Red Bull poster. Ms Media asked whether it was feasible for the Council to agree then if Red Bull was unsure about fully collaborating with the SRC. Ms President stated that the issue was branding, but Red Bull agreed to work with the SRC. Ms Media responded that anything she put on the SRC social media needed to have the SRC logo.

Mr Secretary-General asked Mr Ofei whether the Council could retract their initial agreement with Red Bull if they disagreed with Red Bull. Mr Ofei responded that if the majority agreed, then they could.

The Council put to the vote whether the Council should reconsider their initial agreement with Red Bull. A motion was put forward by Mr Environment and seconded by Mr Treasurer-General.

Motion: If Red Bull does not agree to partner with SRC, then SRC withdraws. The voting was done through a show of hands.

Results were as follows:

For: Nine Council members voted for the motion.

Against: None of the Council Members voted.

Abstain: Five Council members abstained.

The chair announced that the deciding vote was that the SRC would withdraw if Red Bull did not agree to partner with the SRC.

#### Request to change the day of Council meetings

Ms President informed the Council that she and Ms Academics had academic commitments every Monday from 18h00 until 20h00. They, therefore, requested that the Council meeting day be changed. The Council members asked that they be given time to check their schedules before they decided. It was agreed by the Council to keep the status quo at the Council meetings and only decide next week on a day that would suit everyone. The Council reached a consensus on the status quo.

#### Mass Memorial

Ms President informed the Council that the memorial would be this week and that it was initially going to be on Thursday, but she proposed to move it to Wednesday. She then asked the Council if that would not be too short notice.

Mr Projects expressed concern about whether the Vice-Chancellor knew and whether the candle purchase order would be approved by Wednesday. Mr Ofei asked whether the memorial was for the students and that the family had been contacted. He then said that the family should not be left out and that the student's father said they would come for the memorial on a day they were ready. Mr Ofei then suggested that the first memorial be given to the family, and a second one could be done if necessary.

**2023.14.11 Closure**

The Chair adjourned the meeting.

**2023.14.12 Date of next meeting**

06 March 2023.