



# Minutes

## Students' Representative Council Meeting

Date: 2022-02-16 | Time: 18:00 | Venue: SRC Boardroom & Microsoft  
Teams

### Welcoming

Viwe welcomed all members in attendance.

### Attendance and Apologies

#### Present:

- Viwe
- Philip
- Alysa-Abby
- Ilan
- Precious
- Vhuḡi
- George
- Takadiwa
- Chris
- Zander
- Toni
- Christo
- Tamara
- Tessa
- Tanya
- Anzel
- Josiah
- Wandile

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### **Present Online:**

- Eugene
- Thimna
- Fadeelah

### **Absent with excuse:**

- Gerrard
- Alex
- Pule

## Setting of the Agenda

No Agenda points were added.

## Internal Affairs

Viwe congratulated those who had birthdays prior to the first SRC meeting. She further announced the SRC member of the week who is Chris.

## Institutional Committee Feedback

- Precious indicated that she had her first **Social Impact** meeting, and the main agenda point was MGD, specifically the reintegration of their governing body into the Division of Social Impact. She further added that she will be attending workshops in the week and requested that if any SRC members are available to attend that they please volunteer.
- George started with the **Committee of Learning and Teaching**, he mentioned that they discussed the extended learning spaces project and the delay of the project itself. Furthermore, the Committee of Learning and Teaching discussed Faculty queries based on the assessment plan, the Rectorates 7 priorities (4 of which fall in the responsibility centre of Learning and Teaching), the assessment strategic fund proposal, and e-assessment systems. **The Disciplinary Task Team**, George mentioned that the points discussed mainly pertained to how the Task team would

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function and no resolutions were made at this meeting. George mentioned at the **Learning and Teaching Workstream** met and discussed the learning and teaching arrangements for term I amongst other confidential matters. George further added that the **Senate** met where amongst other things the Language Policy was discussed.

- Viwe indicated that with the **Institutional Audit Self-Evaluation Committee**, the first draft would be presented to Senate. Viwe mentioned that she suggested that a similar approach be taken as with the Vaccine Rule when it comes to obtaining student feedback, she further added that we need to engage with Eugene and Francis to ensure there is sufficient engagement from Postgraduate students. With the **Institutional Committee for Business Continuity (ICBC)** Viwe mentioned that much that was discussed was confidential however a big part of the discussion was on whether they should proceed with the mandate, stop it or delay it she further mentioned that they were waiting on the guidelines from the Department of Higher Education and Training with regards to the distance between individuals in classrooms. Viwe mentioned that along with the Alysya-Abby they attended and presented to the **Parliament Portfolio Committee on Higher Education, Science and Technology** along with a delegation from the University, she elaborated that it was a fruitful engagement and that as the SRC we presented:
  - The Strides made as an Institution with regards to Transformation
  - The Strides that the SRC has made with regards to Transformation
  - Student Challenges that we've identified with regards to Transformation

The portfolio committee was thoroughly impressed with our presentation and specifically commended the BeYou initiative saying it was one of a kind. They further requested that we submit a document highlighting more detailed and specific issues at our institution and would arrange another engagement with us once that is done. **Seniors Appointment Committee** will be meeting to shortlist candidates for Prof Eugene Cloete's position.

- Philip provided feedback on the **SRC (EC) & SU Rectorate Meeting** just before Registration he indicated that the Executive provided the Rectorate with insight on what the SRC's plans were for Registration. Furthermore, he provided feedback on the meeting with the **SRC (EC) & Division of Student Affairs** where the main points of discussion was the Language Policy issue that caused a backlash from the organization StudentePlein as a result of our SRC mass mailer only being published in English. He mentioned that legal advice was obtained and the SRC does not have to comply with that section of the language policy however once we obtain our internal communications policy, we will commit to sending our mass mailers in all 3 languages. Furthermore, the cost of compliance was brought up as the translation services is quite a hefty cost Dr Choice however indicated that we could use their fund for translations. Viwe added that English will be prioritized in matters of urgency. The operation of CECO was also discussed as there have been complaints that the costs of venues are too high. The Societies Fair was discussed specifically with regards to the Monster energy drinks that were handed out and who approved it. The final point discussed was the Huis Marais issue. The **Council** met and the only non-confidential

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matters discussed was the Language Policy, Vaccine Rule, and the Approval of the Student Constitution, with the Student Constitution Viwe mentioned that the decision from council is that within a year of ratification the SRC exec will have to present any challenges that may have been faced due to the constitution. The **Council Language Committee** met and went through each faculty discussing whether they were complying their internal language implementation plans.

- Takadiwa presented feedback from the **Institutional Advisory Committee on Internationalization** he mentioned that the main issues he presented on was that of refugee students which he requested a separate office or team be set up to deal with Refugee Students.

## Portfolio Feedback

### Ilan

- Indicated that all treasury transactions should be up to date other than a few reimbursements. Ilan further mentioned that the Student Debt Working Group is currently sitting on about 250 applications.

### George

- George mentioned that the most pressing issue is the agenda point for the ratification of their constitution. Furthermore, he expressed that the Academic Operations workstream is still functioning as there are students who still have not heard back from their appeals. George mentioned that the AAC camp and strategic weekend will be taking place, the council is also set to meet the Chancellor Justice Edwin Cameron

### Toni

- Toni mentioned that the welcoming period seemed to go well, although there were a few hiccups which they managed to nip in the bud. She further mentioned that one of the highlighted issues from welcoming is the lack of support for communities e.g. What happens when the entire house committee has gastro and there is no one to assist newcomers? Toni mentioned that a lot of communities are also in the process of amending their constitutions.
  - Fadeelah mentioned to Toni that one of her projects is the sick policy, she requested whether she could engage with student leaders to find out how they dealt with the gastro outbreak so this could inform the policy.

### Anzel

- Anzel indicated that she met with the disability unit to discuss funding for disabled students she added that the disability unit cannot assist students with fees but can

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provide other assistance. She further added that NSFAS for disabled students this year is questionable however the disability unit is trying to sort that out. Anzel also mentioned that she is in the process of getting permission to host support groups, currently there is only an Autism Support group as this has shown the most interest and has been approved. It will take place every 2 weeks 1 on Stellenbosch Campus and 1 on Tygerberg Campus. She mentioned that she will be hosting critical engagements sessions and further is further arranging a workshop however she is having a massive problem with the lack of wheelchair accessibility at possible venues.

#### Tessa

- Tessa mentioned that they had a meeting with Pieter Kloppers at the end of last year to propose sustainability changes for the welcoming period. They further added that the issues brought up in this meeting were extended to Christine Groenewald and as a result changes such as the dream card including “what is your dream for a sustainable SU?” this also resulted in the dream cards being collected the next day after the Dream Walk to avoid waste. They mentioned that they met with the Green HCs to show support for their initiatives run in their communities. Furthermore, they noted developments with the divestment and will have a meeting to discuss it. Tessa mentioned that they met with a grade 12 student to look at establishing a Youth Council in Stellenbosch that will engage on climate change.

#### Christo

- Christo reiterated what Toni echoed in terms of the welcoming period being positive. He elaborated on the current process of the alcohol policy being that the communities each have to draw up their own policies and submit it to their Residence Head, their Residence Head will then submit it to the Centre for Student Communities (CSC), and once engagement has taken place between the CSC and the Residence Head these policies are then approved. He mentioned that there is a large emphasis being placed responsible alcohol usage. Furthermore, he mentioned that during welcoming there were a few feuds between residences however he is hoping that this does not persist in future. Christo then also questioned whether the Prim Committee still has to reach out to Student Parliament considering that the new constitution gives the structure the power to establish a committee to review and approve the changes.
  - Viwe requested whether there could be an information session/ fun activity on drinking responsibly. She further questioned whether from CSC’s side, a standardization of the policy across communities would be provided as she identified that even with the visitor’s policy there is a big discrepancy between Men’s and Women’s residences. She further questioned whether there are any developments with the visitor’s policy.
  - Christo responded that with the alcohol policy there is a standard policy with certain rules however the last part of the policy gives each community the power

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to draft their own policy that is suitable to their community space. Toni further added that the issue with standardization is that the Res Heads may not all approve the same policy even if they're in the same cluster, this means that regardless of what CSC says there could be a case where it won't be standard. She further added that they requested the communities to send in the drafts of their policies so that they are able to provide feedback. With regards to the visitor's policy, she indicated that it would work the same as with the alcohol policy where communities have to draft their own policies submit it to their Residence heads and then send it to CSC.

- Christo further mentioned that prior to being sent to the Residence Head, the alcohol policy and visitors policy need to be approved by the communities.
- Viwe lastly added that Toni and Christo should have as much involvement in that process as possible as she is concerned that different communities are still treated differently.

### Vhuqi

- Vhuqi mentioned from the TSR side they had quite a successful welcoming period and commended the SRC visibility on the Tygerberg Campus. The TSR office is also now fully operational due to the engagement on the campus increasing, TSR members also now have office duty. With any issues that came up during the registration period Vhuqi mentioned that he tried to refer them to the relevant SRC workstreams where applicable however now the TSR is working more on the ground to deal with issues specific to their campus. He indicated that there is a DMT meeting where the issues discussed would be Readmission specifically the procedural unfairness of the Appeals Committee at Tygerberg during this cycle, the laptop loans for Tygerberg Students and touching on the vaccine rule as well, furthermore he plans to raise the TSR exclusion at official events. Vhuqi mentioned that he has drafted a document highlighting all further issues and this document will also be sent to the DMT however if not dealt with he is hoping to escalate it to the Rectorate through the SRC Executive. The TSR will also be hosting a feedback forum in the next week. He further mentioned that the Treasury is waiting for the RegisterAll to indicate what the shortfall is, so they are able to cover it as agreed.

### Wandile

- Wandile mentioned that at the end of last year while preparing all merchandise and the banners and gazebos the process was going smooth until the branding department of the university shut it down and indicated that all the branding needed to be relooked at. Wandile indicated that the interim logo should be used in the meantime until communication from the Branding Department is received. Wandile further mentioned that she had a meeting with Ms Cloete and Philip where the discussion was on how to include the SRC'S "Seabreeze blue" into the branding. Wandile also had a

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conversation with Dr Jairam in discussing the rollout of our logo with the mass mailer. Furthermore, Wandile indicated that the feedback from the SRC talks were very positive. She further emphasized that the discord platform needs to be utilized.

**Viwe indicated that due to time constraints all members now need to provide summarized versions of their feedback.**

Josiah

- Josiah indicated that from his side the SRC talks were fruitful as Wandile mentioned and he would be consulting with Toni to further the visibility in Communities. He further encouraged that members make use of the new logos and the interim logos.

Tamara

- Tamara mentioned that the Societies Fair was a success, and similar protocol was followed as last year with regards to no physical sign ups being allowed. She emphasized that they are looking to increase the visibility of societies on campus and mentioned that the Seniors Societies Fair is currently being planned for April.

Zander

- Zander indicated that with Transformation they have been working closely with Katlego from the Transformation Office on the Siyakhula capacity development project where they will film a few videos to discuss some of the issues raised during the SRC pre-registration program. Zander is also working with Shante from the Transformation office with regards to events centred around the imbizo 365 calendar. Furthermore, they indicated that have been contacted by someone from the Palestinian Solidarity to collaborate on an event, which they are awaiting more feedback on and they also will be assisting the QueerUs society with transport for the Cape Town Pride next week.

Alysa-Abby

- Alysa-Abby indicated that during the registration period a lot of queries surfaced specifically with regards to the NSFAS appeals this prompted her along with SASCO to discuss and initiative to perhaps transport students to the NSFAS offices however upon engaging with Mr Sauls on this issue he indicated that NSFAS will be moving their offices so this would not be a feasible initiative. However, she indicated that at the Parliament Portfolio Committee meeting she met with one of the Senior Managers of NSFAS who advised her on a better process to follow in terms of collecting student queries. She then also met with the Law and Social Justice Trust regarding the

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Action4inclusion campaign, a representative from the Alumni office was also there to discuss other initiatives such as bridge the gap etc. Alysya-Abby further mentioned that a meeting will be held in the next week with the Social workers from the CSCD and other stakeholders to discuss the improvement of the food security programme.

#### Viwe

- Viwe mentioned that from her side, she just wants to commend everyone for their work put in during welcoming and a special thanks to Branding and the Prim Committee for all the efforts which have produced sound results such as so many students finding interest in the SRC and being more open to engage with the SRC.

#### Philip

- Philip indicated that the office has been painted and the cupboards have been restocked to ensure that the office environment is conducive for SRC members to be working in. He further added that the Term reports will be put up on the website by the constitutional date which is Friday. Furthermore, he will be having 1 on 1 meetings with each SRC member to discuss term reports and year plans. Furthermore, from policy officer he indicated that he is working on the constitutional repository and has majority of the constitutions and is just waiting for the Societies Council.

#### Chris

- Chris mentioned that from his side he has been engaging with the CSCD with regards to the mental health plan specifically, they have sent the document. Furthermore, he is planning a financial literacy workshop and is now just waiting for confirmation of a speaker and deciding which cluster they would like to use to host the workshop.

#### Precious

- With innovation Precious mentioned that a discussion took place to discuss how SU Launchlab functions and due to it functioning like a business, collaborations are often difficult. She further expressed that her and Eugene had a discussion with Dr Choice about students getting approved and funding for international seminars. She indicated that with the Social impact the partnerships that they've had thus far is with the Alumni office (Bridge the Gap and Move4Food ) as well the Division of Social Impact and MGD. Further there external partners have been NGO's specifically ShaSha who is assisting them in drafting a mentorship programme. Precious indicated that she was one of the panellists for the social impact day. She also mentioned that with the

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#EndPeriodPoverty campaign they are partnering with an NGO. Lastly there will be a partnership with Internationalization.

#### Tanya

- Tanya indicated that they had a stand at the Societies Fair and after this met with all the sports leaders on campus (including the Tygerberg and Saldana campus) and were joined by the Director of Maties Sport. She further mentioned that an additional league has been added (The Cluster League ), which will commence on the 14<sup>th</sup> March so there will now be 3 leagues. Tanya further mentioned that she met with her predecessor Khwezi to discuss the implementation of some plans that he may not have been able to do. She will further meet with the Director of MatiesSport as well as USAF to discuss Sports Politics.

#### Fadeelah

- Fadeelah indicated that the proposal for Wall of Us was finalized to the Visual redress committee, she further mentioned that it has been redirected to now fall under the Transformation Office and Facilities Management. She mentioned that the Leadership and Development World Café will be taking place next week and further along with her subcommittee she's been invited to attend the Social Impact "Re-Imagining" Conference. Fadeelah also mentioned that the First Financial Literacy talk will be taking place next week at the Tygerberg campus that Ilan will be presenting. She further mentioned that good feedback has been received for the AAC training and that the preparations for the Leadership Showcase is well underway. Furthermore, she notified the team the LSAL preparations is behind schedule but will hopefully be ready prior to the election season. Lastly, she mentioned that the FVZS courses have opened some of their applications.

#### Thimna

- Thimna indicated that the welcoming period was successful and that there were fruitful working relations with the Safety Forum and Prim Committee. She further added that Safety awareness talks took place to better equip newcomers with general safety precautions and awareness on the Stellenbosch area, a talk also took place at the Tygerberg Campus sports hall for the entire TygerMaties Cluster thanks to Anandi and good feedback was given. Thimna indicated that she is awaiting feedback from the newcomers. She also mentioned that the logistics for the first aid training is currently being finalized and hopefully by the end of the week the first aid kits would be delivered to Philip. Furthermore, Thimna indicated that the Safety and Security subcommittee applications will be opened again.

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## Eugene

- Eugene noted that at the end of last year, a survey was sent out to the Leaders of the Senior Prim Committee to gauge where their needs are in terms of leadership development and The Senior prim committee has finalized the programme for the Senior Prim Committee Leadership Development weekend taking place next week. Furthermore, Eugene expressed that there was difficulty with the majority of the House Committee of the village needing to be re-elected. Eugene further mentioned that the Social Impact project Maties Have Drive has also started. Furthermore, He mentioned that with Postgraduate students they are still working on a welcoming that is more student driven and not too staff driven and will encompass all facets of diversity.

## Takadiwa

- Takadiwa shared a presentation looking at the Sustainable Development Goals which included information on a sustainable literacy: future 17 SDG programme which is a partnership amongst various institutions including Stellenbosch. He further shared information on various other initiatives and projects centred around the Sustainable Development Goals such as the Global Sustainability Education Programme.
  - Tessa questioned what the cost of the Global Sustainability Education programme would be and Takadiwa indicated that it is free.

## Matters for Discussion

### Mass Meeting

Viwe indicated that she would like to have a mass meeting to ensure we are proactive, she further mentioned that the proposed date for this meeting would be Friday the 25 February and will be structured in workstreams (but only the relevant parts). She further added that there should be tables where people can present their grievances and queries to prevent shouting etc. There will be a NSFAS table, Queries and General concerns. Any IT concerns will be added to our report to Dr Jairam. She emphasized that All SRC members need to be present at the meeting.

- Takadiwa requested whether a professional facilitator could be hired, to which it was responded that this would create a barrier between the SRC and Students.
- Tessa suggested whether there could be a mini mass meeting or it could be streamed for Tygerberg students to which it was responded that it would be best for the TSR to host a feedback forum and invite SRC members or to provide busses for their students to come in.

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- Anzel mentioned that it's important to take into consideration that the Tygerberg SRC members have class. Viwe responded that this will be noted, she further mentioned that she'll request Anzel to communicate with the disability unit to ensure accessibility ( getting a sign language interpreter and ensuring wheelchair accessibility).
- Tanya questioned where these meetings take place and who is invited to which Viwe responded that mass meetings are for all students and usually take place on the rooftop.
- Philip mentioned that with the tables his concern is that we're duplicating the office and it defeats the purpose of having a mass meeting. Viwe mentioned that although this point is valid the NSFAS table is necessary as there is a time limit to this.
- George indicated that there could be a group of tables to ensure that multiple individuals are assisting and to work more efficiently.
- Toni queried if it would not be more streamlined if half of SRC members are stationed at the meeting and other members stationed at the tables (both operations running simultaneously) as there would be students who won't be staying for the entire meeting but will need assistance from the NSFAS tables.
- Ilan mentioned that an important point to consider in all of this is whether there would be an extended Registration or whether the 25 February would be the last day, Viwe indicated that this could be taken up at a Rectorate Meeting.
- Fadeelah suggested that we follow the regular presentation style of a mass meeting and perhaps station SRC members in the office to tend to various queries afterwards.
- Viwe indicated that she'll send out an email to all those required to present.

## Matters for Resolution

### Ratification of the AAC Constitution

- George proposed that in the AAC Constitution Section 3.4 stays the exact same and section 3.4.1 is amended to “**by** the end of the third academic week” instead of “**in** the third academic week” the same applies senior students. Furthermore, the addition of clause 3.4.2 was proposed:

*3.4.2: Each faculty student committee must submit a comprehensive report on the election of class, departmental, and faculty representatives to the chairperson of the AAC by the end of the fifth academic week of the first term and the third term (for second-semester modules). There will be a prescribed format for this*

- Philip questioned what the monitory mechanisms for the constitution are, because he indicated that in each of his modules across two faculties class reps have already been elected so what is the point of voting in the amendments

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- Ilan emphasized that the reason for this is to substantiate the precedent that has been set. George further added that this aids to the quality assurance that the AAC wishes to provide.
- Viwe expressed that her only concern is that if it is changed to “by” it could still mean that class rep elections could take place during the second and third week and this would exclude students made use of late registration from voting and running for class rep as they wouldn’t have been able to attend class. George indicated that this point is very valid and is one of the reasons why there has been an additional clause, so that the AAC Exec is able to review the election processes and ensure that it took place in a fair manner.
- Viwe indicated that we will proceed to voting and ratifying the AAC Constitution. The votes were as follows:
  - **13 members voted in favour**
  - **1 member abstained**

### **SRC Code of Conduct**

Philip indicated that due to the Code of Conduct being discussed during the pre-registration training and a further request for comments/ amendments being sent out in the digest that there will be no discussion on the Code of Conduct, and we will proceed to voting.

- **13 members voted in favour**
- **1 member abstained**

**Tessa requested that a printed code of conduct be printed and put up in the office.**

### **By- Election**

Philip mentioned that due to the SRC having 2 resignations (one being a pending resignation that will be final on the 25 February), we need to decide whether we want to appoint a manager or have a by-election to fill the available vacancy. Philip mentioned that the recommendation from the Executive Committee is that considering after the 25 February there will be 2 vacancies, it is encouraged that all members vote *against* filling the current vacancy and to vote *in favour* of filling the next vacancy. He further expressed that the reason for this is that considering that we have 1 more manager position left we can control the process in appointing someone who is equipped, and this process can be streamlined to ensure it takes place in 2-3 weeks. Philip added that we do however need an additional SRC (voting) member due to possible quorum issues in future hence why the suggestion is that the next vacancy (opening after the 25 February) is voted to be a by-election.

- Ilan requested clarity on whether the specific vote is for the current vacancy, and whether there will be a secondary vote to fill the next vacancy. Philip responded saying

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that the secondary vote can only take place after the 25 February because technically the member doesn't seem to be a member as mentioned in the Constitution.

- Wandile requested whether the names of the portfolios could be mentioned as the use of the term vacancy becomes confusing. Viwe responded that because we are not voting for portfolios but rather for vacancies hence the choice of words.
- Philip expressed that due to there being 9 general elected seats in total there are now 2 vacancies. We therefore are deciding whether we want to fill the seats that are open.
- Zander questioned whether we could vote for both vacancies to be a by-election. Viwe expressed that this is possible, but it would delay the process, hence why the executive suggested otherwise.
- Fadeelah asked if Philip could explain the By-election process and further questioned whether having an even number of members would not mess with quorum. George responded to the second half of the question and indicated that ex-officio members also have voting rights and the Chairperson has a casting vote for this very reason. Philip explained that a by-election is a full SRC election (as taken to elect general SRC members). Fadeelah further questioned whether the managers would be able to run in the by-election to which Viwe responded that all students are allowed to run.
- Viwe indicated that we proceed to voting, the outcome was as follows:
  - **8 members voted against filling the vacancy**
  - **6 members abstained**

## Closing

Viwe thanked all members in attendance and adjourned the meeting.

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