

Meeting: Student Parliament,

Date: 10/03/2015

Location: Room 1001, RW Wilcocks Building,

Speaker: Gerschwin Hamunyela

In Attendance: Stellenbosch University Students, University Management and Staff

Review of Agenda Points

- Student Parliament Constitution
- Tuition Fee increase and the lack of Bursary opportunities presented by SU
- Increasing racial attacks on and off campus and the role of campus security relating to this
- Gender discrimination and the steps taken by management

Opening:

- Welcoming by Gerschwin to members of student body
- Discussion of rules of engagement. The framework and aims were discussed and read through by chairman
- Stephan Laing and Lethu, Tygerberg Student Parliament Speaker asked to say commitment to unity along with all present
- Announcement: change in order of agenda point. First racial issue, then bursary, then constitution

Increase racial attacks and role of campus security

- Khule Duma speaks. Speaks as representative of his friends and only as a student.
- Students abusing rights of members of staff of MacDonald's; the incident arose from them speaking up
- Because they didn't speak Afrikaans, they did not belong there
- Upon speaking to the workers, they were silent. Realised that they had been conditioned to such treatment.
- One suspect swore at Lwazi and then stood up to strangle one of them

- Upon going outside, the altercation included 7 in total. Khule was punched and fell; Lwazi fell
- Upon trying to rise, they came back to assault further
- Campus security didn't know what was happening and say they didn't have jurisdiction at McDonalds or Neelsie and thus could not help them
- They had to go to police and the process is still being process.
- Such incidents are continuous and is an issue of classicism. More has to be done to challenge these things.
- Statement from Mr Lang – SRC Chairperson – on their behalf and NOT on behalf of Campus security
 - ⊕ The SRC has no mandate to decide what campus security may or may not do.
 - ⊕ The case is under investigation in many forms.
 - ⊕ SRC cannot do anything to students to punish anyone.
 - ⊕ They will never condone any racism or violence on campus ever. They recently had the march for human dignity.
 - ⊕ The focus was human dignity and not just breaking down racism because we can't polarize the issue and rather work on unifying the campus.
 - ⊕ Structural procedures need to be put in place though.
 - ⊕ A task team has been put in place to detect any racism and such on campus; thus a process of sorting it out has been started.
 - ⊕ This is all they can do, but they do empathise with Khule
- Floor opened for questions: Mr Wade: what were they reasons for campus security not being here?
- Asked for clarity on where campus security can work.
- Gerschwin: this is a jurisdiction issue, they have limited mandate to handle it. They couldn't be here to address the topic tonight though and it will be asked as soon as possible. This issue has been raised before but this is a more personal issue rather than students as a whole.
- Stephan suggests that student parliament is not being used to its full capacity and it should be. Thus minutes should be sent to more bodies so that the platform is sent further.
- Farai question: i.t.o march: how effective was the march in its influence? Do you feel that management understood the duck-tape? To both speakers because they were both involved

- Khule: thinks it was effective. This is the first time that it happened so successfully. Student activism is deeply cared about and in the past it has been difficult to rise it. There is no longer an apathetic approach and it should be carried on especially because there was such a good response
- Duck-tape: he is not sure if management understood, but the people there knew what it meant and thus management should have got it
- Stephan: thanks for people there who hosted March. Bing at Stellenbosch; if one doesn't understand the symbolism behind silent marches, he doesn't know how you got here
- Effectiveness: he doesn't know. He risks preaching to the choir when looking at who was there but the good turn up. As Khule said, the issue being raised proved that raising this awareness showed that there was enough of a spark to light a fire. It was effective, and thanks for hard work.
- Question: to SRC: if there is a racist incident, can it be labelled as a human dignity issue? Can the silent march be effective
- Stephan: there have been a lot of issue in which people were ashamed to talk about. The MacDonald's issue opened up the issue.
- Relating to what he said, if they were to make a lot of noise about the issue, he personally doesn't believe in this, but it runs the risk of alienating more people instead of unifying people.

Gender discrimination and the steps taken by management

- Pieter Kloppers address first
- Give status on the Eendrag incident; and give the forward on what management is doing
- Incident at Eendrag; arrested and taken to court. Appeared at mag and his case has been taken to regional court in Paarl for Friday.
- The university isn't a criminal court, they can't do same thing as criminal court.
- It will thus be something to do with sexual harassment.
- Task team set out to look at the issue and he urges the Yes means Yeas campaign because it gives insight to the problem regarding sexual harassment
- It is a movement from the no means no campaign. In the yes means yes campaign required to the procedure so that there is a clear interpretation.
- If a person is too drunk to remember to say no; they were also too drunk to say yes.

- They hope that it will put women in Stellenbosch in a better position and change the view on sexual harassment in Stellenbosch.
- The discussion that has to be had is what is meant by responsible alcohol use. Many of the issues destroying the community is due to alcohol abuse.
- Thus people must be in a position to not do these things.
- Secondly, understanding with the discussion is what they plan to do next.
- **Mr Pienaar:** apologising for everything written in Afrikaans and secondly his dress.
- Giving a statement with what happened that night the lady was at the event
- After the issue, she went home and later approached the HK to tell him what happened. He then took her to the clinic where she was examined.
- The doctor at the police station also examined her and then contacted the university
- She also gave her statement
- Her parents were then contacted and she received all the help that was necessary to her.
- The university then took control of the investigation because of how serious the charge was
- The next day, the leadership of Olympus and Eendrag met to discuss the event as well as opening up all communication lines to relevant bodies
- The case is very sensitive and shook him. He has been part of leadership for a long time but nothing could have prepared him for such a situation.
- He analysed the situation and learnt of the safety procedures on campus that he didn't know about.
- Many people haven't even heard of SSPO (?)
- It's time to stop asking what the management is doing but rather ask what we can do. One person cannot do it but it affects us all
- They are looking at a better way to raise awareness
- **Reps from Eendrag: Speaking on behalf of Du Toit (Prim of Eendrag)**
- They gave their full support to the university and the police department
- They have an internal investigation with the help of an external facilitator who can help make a culture change in Eendrag and the rest of campus
- They are sorry it happened in Eendrag but it could have happened anywhere
- They don't have enough information to make an opinion about it but if there are questions, the university should be contacted.

- Gershwin will be strict on what will be asked as it is a criminal investigation and not all information can be disclosed as yet.
- Question: He had to bite his tongue on POI because Mr Kloppers left. Mr Pienaar said students must ask what they can do; why isn't there a standardised visiting rule? With this, could this not have been avoided?
- Question: nature of first incident; quick to link it to what the incident means racism or sexism. Both had a undertone of excessive drinking and violence. Alcohol seems to make it seem okay. Thus, what is being done to realign this culture?
- Gerschwin: Mr Kloppers asked that parliament take any questions and it will later be relayed to him
- Pienaar answered both Q: visiting rules: it is on the PK table and it is being looked at but can't be implemented just like that.
- There are other constitutional rules that must be taken into account before they can decide, eg. Dagbreek has strict visiting hours.
Answer to 2 Q: alcohol policy of each res must be looked at. It is something that the entire student body needs to look at. If your res has a binge drinking policy has been an issue. Management is trying to limit drinking of seniors in residences. Good events go bad from excessive drinking. It is really being looked into. Especially for res having huge social events where alcohol is cheap.
- Rep from Eendrag: answered 1 Q and 2 Q
- Eendrag is busy with an internal process that will eventually go out. It was over two weeks
Looking at 5 why's. One of the biggest things is alcohol. The alcohol culture, reference to binge drinking, has to be changed. The policies will change and the university is looking into that, but the incident was against their values and alcohol is also biting at their values.
- NEW Question Round 2: Tumi – question for Kloppers
- What is Stellenbosch doing to teach boys not to rape?
- Gerschwin: It has been noted
- Question: Kule
- To just say that it is caused by alcohol would be to miss the point completely. The power balance between men and women are not equal. The situation of power between male and female res is not right, what would they do to fix this?

- EENDRAG Rep: It's a culture and their values are of respect. We should look at everything and not starting from scratch but using participation of everyone and leadership from all sides to improve.
- Pienaar: it is important to note. Gender equality in campus has made big strides of improvement and he feels positive. He likes the word adapt because it ensures that they run a culture that proves that such things are not okay. The prim men spoke about it. Stephan said that they preaching to the people that already know. How do people with girlfriends ... as soon as first years move in, they will embrace the value. It begins with how we speak to each other. When we look at leadership training available to first years and seniors; if they just speak about it it won't be effective.
- Question: In terms of sec 75 of Student Constitution, how do we ensure that first years get taught by leaders who follow the same flawed patterns?
- Can they not learn from other res?
- POI time has run out.
- Gerschwin said that one q will be disregarded
- Eendrag. They support all processes and look at the outside. An external facilitator is helping them which the university supports. The process is almost never completed, but when they are done they will go out.
- Question: to both HK people. Great expectance. Are you ready for the dialogues which challenge your norms and value of your res and PSO?
- Eendrag: it is difficult, they identify crucial people and give them topics which will give them discussions. End of each week, they take in what they have found out about each other. With small discussion, the process is started
- Pienaar: they did the right thing with an external person. It is easy to box their beliefs if it is internal. A perspective from the outside will ensure the norms are on the right path. A person should be gotten to come talk to us and to share the same kind of knowledge as you. They're values are in line with the Universities values and not every person knows the values. In res you are boxed in what you know. They had a brain storming on the issue about the mind set about the issue. If not answered come talk after
- Question: for Kloppers. Commend EEN on how they handled the situation. Kloppers saw it as a gender issue, thus will it be an over-arching policy of improvement? He said steps had been taken, what are the policies that are to be implemented? How will students be able to get involved with this?

- Gerschwin: Noted
- Closing remark: Pienaar. Please contact him and have a discussion
- University is doing a lot to make security better. So before pointing fingers; look at what they are doing and how you can help. Ask the correct questions instead of pointing fingers and waiting for something to happen.

Tuition Fee increase and Lack of Bursary opportunities presented by SU

- Gerschwin: bursary office cannot comment at this time. The time and date of a later informal setting will be sent out at a later stage.
- POO: it is not fair on us as students. This platform should be used more and those who came here and can't wait forever for these situations to be dealt with.
- Gerschwin: the agenda point has not raised by one person and it will be a point of utmost importance at this time. Please understand that if they cannot comment in their official capacity
- Question: when will student parliament hold SRC accountable because they sit on bursary fee office
- Gerschwin: conversation will be help with them and they're treasurer. They are holding them accountable but processes have to be followed and they must be understanding
- Question: why after 20 years is bursary office reintroducing racial discrimination and thus cancelling 8 bursaries?
- Gerschwin: this question cannot be answered without their knowledge or approval
- Question: at what point did they find out they would get a rep to come? Is there a person that ensures if people come to represent the agenda points?
- Gerschwin: before the agenda point is sent out, speakers are secured. They informed them today that the speaker couldn't speak and the notice was too short for them to find a new speaker
- The speaker went to SASCO and thus could not come.
- Gerschwin: there is no illusion and they are trying to hold people accountable and trying hard to hold people accountable
- Question: theology student committee. They had a problem to address bursary issue and Bursary office won't come back. Why won't the go to Theology?
- Gerschwin: it is noted.
- POI: where is SRC?

- Gerschwin: They had a prior arrangement and had an official excuse
- Question: Why are we here to ask questions when essentially the people to answered weren't here
- Gerschwin: This is a platform for people to raise concerns. If they are not present to answer, they take it forward
- POI: Robust dialogue cannot take place if it is submitted via statement
- Gerschwin: doing this will give them a chance to make their answer and if it is not answered now, it will be brought up with them
- Q: proposition that every person who comes to student parliament must stay for the entire sitting. Also, SRC must be here in its full capacity and not just few members.
- Gerschwin: will be taken up with them

Student Parliament Constitution

- Gerschwin. Outline how the constitution is working
- Draft statement is prepared, which is then given to students to raise concerns
- They adjust and revalue, then present to students again
- Students then vote
- Then taken to student court, who comment and then approve
- Suggestion that student Parliament first approve the draft before given to student. This was for the document to be more accessible and clear
- HOWEVR< a deadline was 8 march to give comments (in spirit of accountability) and are thus obligated to go back and take them into account.
- Only thereafter can it be voted in by the student court.
- Question: last year, there was a constitution that was not accessible etc.? How will they make sure that this year's draft does accountability and transparent
- Gerschwin: what must be understood that procedure must be followed since there is such a time lapse between this years and last, they opened comments again? If they did it shorter, people would abstain. They got some valid points and because they must analyse these points, they cannot vote in today. There will be many opportunities for them to get involved again.
- Question: in the constitution, is it stated the relationship between student parliament and SRC? As well as the role of SRC? And how do we ensure checks and balances are there for SRC to be held accountable?

- Gerschwin: Student parliament holds SRC accountable. The issue of whether they come and answer, it cannot be answered. Being present can mean being here for two minutes thus this has to be sorted out. But as Student Parliament, they hold SRC accountable. Student Parliament also has a mandate to follow and thus hold accountable via meetings, discussions and open door policies to make sure issues are dealt with. Can guarantee there is a process for that.
- Question: POI People should not be allowed to come sign and leave. Also, there have been few rounds of questions
- Gerschwin: It had been noted and will be looked up. It has been mentioned that an informal sitting with the bursaries will be discussed,.
- Question: Issue with constitution. 1st – hey follow their mandate and thus cannot enforce certain rules. The SRC is like exec of a country, If they are not held accountable, they become lazy. If the constitution can be given more power, the SRC will be held accountable.
- Gerschwin: it has been noted.
- Question: Holding SRC accountable, it is not the Parliament's mandate but rather the students. No one comes to the SRC meetings. Is student parliament happy with what has been written?
- Gerschwin: If there were no comments, it would have been voted in today. They have each student here to help, that is why the comments are being analysed before voting in
- Khule: In response to previous q; the SRC meeting is small and this sitting is made to specifically hold them accountable.
- Gerschwin: comment is noted.
- Does student parliament have to go to SRC meetings and how many sitting must they come to?
- Gerschwin: they have a department that requires them to come to a certain number of sittings and meetings So far, a rep has gone to each one
- POI: sec 8 says that chairperson must go to ever SRC meeting
- POI: this point has been closed and the will not be fulfilling role to open it again
- Gerschwin: understood, but only opened because he thought it would be a comment

Closing

- Thanks to 2014 Committee. Take a small token

- Alisha Muller to help hand out.
- Thanks to Farai Mubaiwa, Tayla Steyn, Lize Mari Theron, Patrick Kadima, Pieter Fourie,
- Gerschwin: Thanks to everyone who attended. Must be understood that we should always “stand up, get involved and make your voice heard”.