



Student Parliament

Accountability, Transparency and Consultative Governance
UNIVERSITEIT iYUNIVESITHI STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

MINUTES OF STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT PARLIAMENT MEETING

HELD ON 8 April 2021 ON MS Teams AT 18h00

MINUTES COVERAGE:

1. Opening and welcome
2. Order of proceedings
3. Speaker's address
4. Commitment to unity
5. Keynote speaker
6. Presentation by Constitutional Review Committee
7. House engagement on point 6
8. Accountability Committee announcement
9. Closing

Discussion

1. OPENING AND WELCOME:

Greetings are extended by Speaker of Student Parliament. He welcomes the House at large and acknowledges the constitutionally mandated participants. It was made clear that this sitting would be minuted and recorded.

2. ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

The House is informed by the Deputy Speaker Internal that all points raised shall please speak with acknowledgement of the Speaker and that all members shall

speak only after being directed to do so by the Speaker. Further rules of engagement were set out, as prescribed in Addendum M.

3. SPEAKER'S ADDRESS:

The Speaker, in his address, brought to the House's attention the obligation to uphold accountability, transparency, and cooperative governance. The requirement for students to collectively uphold these values in the House and in their broader communities was highlighted. Furthermore, the Speaker has committed himself personally to upholding these values throughout his term.

4. COMMITMENT TO UNITY

As mandated by the Student Parliament Constitution, the Chairperson of the SRC, the Chief Justice of the Student Court, the Speaker of Student Parliament Stellenbosch and the Speaker of Student Parliament Tygerberg partake in the Commitment to Unity, a pledge that binds these leaders to the facilitation of cooperative governance and value-based leadership. The reading of this commitment is led by Professor Bradley Slade.

5. KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Student Parliament is honoured to have Former Justice Edwin Cameron as the keynote speaker. His address poignantly reminds student leaders of their role in their immediate surroundings but also of their responsibility towards the broader context of South Africa to lead with honesty, integrity and compassion for the marginalized.

6. PRESENTATION BY CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Constitutional Review Committee, Mr. Yanga Keva, the Secretary General of this Committee, presented an overview of the most important Student Constitution amendments, as contemplated in line with the constitutional obligation to review the Student Constitution in 2021 and ensure that student engagement with this process meets the threshold of adequate public participation.

7. HOUSE ENGAGEMENT ON POINT 6

The first question raised queried the how the Constitutional Review Committee was formed.

Response:

It was made clear that this Committee was personally chosen and appointed by the SRC Policy Officer, Ms Nomzamo Buthelezi, in terms of s22 of the Student Constitution.

A query was brought in terms of the amendments to the impeachment process, insofar as they are founded upon the understanding that the current process is too cumbersome. It was asked that specific proof of the undue length of the process be indicated.

Response:

The fact that the impeachment process has never been completed successfully was pointed to as an indication of the cumbersome nature of this accountability mechanism.

A Point of Order was raised in relation to the above question, asking for specific reference points.

Response:

Again, the lack of use of the impeachment process in the Committee's memory was pointed to. The specific workings of the process were set out to highlight its ambiguities and inefficacies.

The Committee was asked to explain their understanding of judicial independence and their understanding of a constitutional democracy.

Response:

The independence of the judiciary was proposed to be the ability of the judiciary to make decisions without fear or favour and without undue influence. A constitutional democracy was differentiated from a pure democracy insofar as majoritarian decisions must occur within the framework of the Constitution which reigns supreme.

In relation to this question a Point of Information was raised which pointed to the Committee's perceived lack of linkage between their understanding of the constitutional review committee's mandate and constitutional democracy.

For the sake of minutes and transparency, the Speaker inquired why Ms Buthelezi was absent given her role as Policy Officer and head of the Constitutional Review Committee.

Response:

It was brought to the Parliament's attention that Ms Buthelezi was attending a training session and was therefore unable to attend the sitting.

8. ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Accountability Committee's mandate, as prescribed in Addendum F, was set out. In her capacity of Accountability Committee Chairperson, the Deputy Speaker Internal announced the appointment of the new Accountability Committee member, a senior student knowledgeable in the Constitution and familiar with the context of student leadership, as mandated by the Constitution. After an application process had been followed, Ms. Shaniaé Maharaj was appointed to this Committee and announced as such.

9. CLOSING

All members in attendance were sincerely thanked for their attendance and commitment to cooperative governance and their constitutional mandates.

The sitting was adjourned at 19:48.