



Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences

Tygerberg Postgraduate Student Council meeting with the Deans' Management Team

3 March 2022

Venue: JN de Villiers Boardroom, First Floor, Clinical Building

- present X apologies

Dean's Management Team (DMT):

- Prof Elmi Muller (Dean)
- Prof Nico Gey van Pittius Vice-Dean Research & Internationalisation (via MS Teams)
- Dr Therese Fish Vice-Dean Clinical Services & Social Impact
- Prof Karin Baatjes Vice-Dean Learning & Teaching
- Mr Eben Mouton Senior Director Business Manager

Invitees

- Khairoonisa Foflonker Manager Student Affairs (Tygerberg Campus) (via MS Teams)
- X Ronel Bester Manager Stakeholder Relations
- X Farah Fredericks Deputy Registrar & Head CSA
- X Njabulo Maphumulo Residence Coordinator (Tygerberg Campus) Centre for Student Communities
- Musa Mpanza (via MS Teams)

TPSC

- Francis Adu-Amankwaa
- Vanessa Louw
- Tshiamo Motsoane
- X Arthur Chiwaya
- Kudakwashe Nyambo
- Zama Mahlobo
- Hameer Vanmali (via MS Teams)
- Nothukela Mpazi
- Candice Februarie
- Kimberly Coetzer
- Ilze Wilmse
- Adeyemi Oluwaseun (via MS Teams)
- Welile Dube

Secretariat:

- Hilda Wilson

Wellness Wednesday

(Ms Februarie)

The TPSC in partnership with the CSCD hosted the monthly wellness Wednesday event in front of the TSS building. The event provided undergraduate and postgraduate students the opportunity to voice their concerns and provide other students with some motivation, who may be facing mental health issues or situations affecting their wellbeing. This program will continue each month, to show support to students and

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act as an outlet for students to approach the TPSC should they need further support during their academic journey.

Summary:

- The initiative was noted. TPSC are encouraged to align processes with the TSR where there are ways of strengthening.

Pride Month Awareness

(Ms Coetzer)

As the TPSC, we are allies of the LBGT+. We showed love and support for the LBGT+ community by raising awareness at the TSS. The event was well received by many students who came to ask questions, take photos for social media, and express their gratitude to the TPSC for taking this stance. We can promise this will not be the last of its kind!

Summary:

- The report on awareness events and support was noted, and that there was a good (mainly UG students) turn-out.
- Events in the BMRI (to reach PG students) in the future would be good. Students were advised to liaise with Ronel Buchner (EM will discuss with her, regarding the scheduling of venues). **EM**
- It was noted that there are no MMed representatives in the group present and that it is important to attract students from this group. Francis can discuss with KB further.

FA-A / KB

Welcoming Week Ceremony & Red bus tour event

(Mr Adu-Amankwaah)

The TPSC will be hosting a welcoming week ceremony and a red bus tour event for postgraduate students at the FMHS, on Friday the 18th and Saturday 19th of March, respectively. The Welcoming Week Ceremony will serve as an official and highest welcoming event for postgraduate students at the FMHS.

- It was noted that this is a first official event and there is a lack of support.
- Evening events for PG students tend to be more successful. Many are working in the morning.
- FA-A to get access to an internal PG list for communication on university matters (this is withing the communication mandates). David Wiles (Gerga IT Manager) compiles simpa lists – EM will speak to him about making a simpa list of PGs available, that students can have access to.

EM / FA-A

PhD Program-Support Workshop

(Ms Mahlobo)

On the 30th of March 2022, a workshop directed at PhD candidates will introduce and inform students about the support systems put in place by the university which aim to assist the academic development of students. This will include guests from the doctoral office, Research Capacity Development and Funding, and Centre for Student Counselling and Development.

Gifts for participants TPSC events

(Ms Mahlobo)

We would like to show our appreciation to students which participate and show interest at our events at the FMHS. The current system (which is currently unknown) is making it difficult to plan aspects of an event.

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Summary:

- Access to gifts for guest speakers and how to access and plan this. Forms part of budgetary planning. M&Cs have corporate gifts. TPSC can approach Ronel Bester / Florence de Vries to establish what is available and purchase through a journal payment, against the cost point. TPSC will decide on the kind of gifts for this purpose.
- It was noted that the event will be in person.
- There is a big contingent of clinical PhDs to be kept in mind too. There are clinical students on each level.

ZM

International fees

(Ms Dube & Mr Adu-Amankwaah)

The TPSC has received numerous emails regarding the levy of the international fee, which increases annually. We have taken the responsibility unto ourselves to discuss how this levy may be restructured to suit both parties. We have communicated our concerns numerous times but have yet to receive feedback.

Summary:

- Concern over the annual increase has been raised before; to have an exact quotation of what is due and a breakdown of what international fees are used for and why they are increased every year.
- University fees increase each year. This is not unusual. International fees can be difficult to pay. The structure of most SA institutions (for non-resident students) is to pay a higher fee. This is the same internationally and is slightly different for the MMeds who provide hospital service delivery.
- The international registration fee is payable to the international office, a self-funded environment. This is direct income and is a standard practice at SUN.
- International tuition fee (comprised of various categories). SADC students don't pay this but European students do for example is also not payable by international PhD students.
- FA-A to contact Dr Nyambura Mwangiru, to enquire about the specific account.

FA-A

Postgraduate office

(Mr Adu-Amankwaah)

The TPSC is the most senior student decision making body at the FMHS. Currently, we have no after-hours meeting venue with basic boardroom facilities (Wi-Fi, desk-space, whiteboard, etc) at the FMHS. Our venue spaces currently remain in the hands of outside stakeholders, which requires significantly more time to prepare and organise. It is very difficult for students to recognize our presence on campus. You will agree, listening to the needs and issues of students in person allows for a more meaningful experience than an email or online meeting. The lack of an office, in turn visibility on campus, hampers our productivity and ability to serve.

Summary:

- There is sympathy for the circumstances described. Offices for staff are in short supply too and FMHS are having to approach the USB for space.
- The TPSC should be accommodated in the TSS by the TSR.
- FA-A to send an email to EM with the requirements to understand the need and further engagement.
- The TPSC are using the library space for some meetings. An office for students to walk in is what is missing.
- It was noted that the chair of TPSC is a member of the TSR and therefore access is also granted to him to use an office. This can be discussed with the TSR, for holding meetings.
- The need for TPSC to have their own space is understood.
- Facilities colleagues are renovating the space. This is in progress. FA-A to speak to Musa Mpanza or directly to the TSR.
- TPSC to consider devising a schedule for use of the shared TSR space in TSS.
- FA-A is the only TPSC member who currently has access.

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- The DMT are supportive that there should be TPSC space. EM will follow up with FA-A regarding their needs. TPSC to work with TSR in the meantime; consider a schedule and reflecting both student societies name on the door.

FA-A / EM

Delayed funding

(Treasurer)

Currently the TPSC utilises the unused funds from the previous council's budget. This budget does not accommodate for our term's activities and events. We have cancelled / downsized many of our Year plans, and subsequently forced to re-strategize our term. Substantial changes have been made to our event calendar and timelines, all of which affect our reliability and visibility as a council, and trust with students and stakeholders. New funding is effected in March/April when the council gets into office in October and begins their term planning. This affects our visibility as a council.

Summary:

- It was noted that the university financial year is from January to December. Funding comes into the university at registration. The flow of income and processing timeline: there is a delay.
- approach Werner Abrahams (Head of student fees) to access funds as soon as possible. Transfers have their process.
- Consider planning from 1 April to 31 March for the next year. This will ensure cashflow for the new incoming committee for their first three months.
- It was proposed that the TPSC divide their income into four quarters to help resolve the problem. And, to consider handing over some projects to their successors, or agree on how these should be taken forward (along with the funding).
- It was noted that funds are transferred to various student structures cost points in March. The 2022 funds have already been transferred to the TPSC cost point.
- It is important for the TSR / TPSC to work together.
- The TPSC are working on the budget of what the previous leadership left behind.

Visual Redress

Dr Therese Fish

Summary:

- The members were informed that the Visual Redress project is an ongoing process. The VRTT (task team) has been challenged on the absence of students on the forum. Ms Florence de Vries is the chair.
- The TPSC includes a marketing person.
- The initiatives of the VRTT are importantly about work towards inclusivity.
- For TPSC members to be aware of these undertakings. Currently 3 projects 1. Making the values of the faculty more visible; 2. NP Van Wyk Louw stone in front of the Clinical Building; 3. memorializing and visibility; of the former cemetery (Hardekraaltjie)

The Dean thanked members for their inputs and apologised for the poor sound quality for those who joined via MS Teams.

The meeting closed at 16:56.

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