

Dear Vice Chancellor- Adam Habib

Dear Dean of students - Pamela Dube

Dear legal office - Dawn Taylor

**RE: FORMAL LETTER OF COMPLAINT AND REQUEST FOR AN INVESTIGATION
AND AUDIT OF THE SRC**

My name is Jamie Mighti and I am a student studying third year law at the University of the Witwatersrand. I also have the privilege of serving in the Student Representative Council for the year 2015, I have served in the council in the year 2014 .

I am writing to raise a formal complaint concerning the failure of the SRC to operate according to the rules of the constitution and to request a formal investigation and audit into the financial management of the SRC funds. I am also writing to request intervention on the part of the SRC to ensure that we act in accordance with the rules and regulations of the university.

My first submission to your office is that the SRC has failed to operate in a transparent and accountable fashion. The SRC has not had a meeting this current year of 2015 and has not had a quorum meeting since its constitutive meeting in November.

Section 1 (1) of the SRC constitution states :

(1) The SRC recognises the authority of the University Council and is bound by the Council's rules, policies and procedures. The SRC shall cooperate with Council in order to achieve the objectives of good student governance.

Section 2 (2) of the SRC states that the Src has a duty that includes :

2) Providing democratic, transparent, effective, accountable and coherent student leadership.

In failing to have a meeting the SRC has failed to create a platform where decisions made by executive can be held to account and where proper measures of accountability may be instituted. In failing to hold a meeting the SRC has allowed there to be financial abuse and financial mismanagement by the office of the treasurer and the executive.

Some SRC portfolios have been allocated no budget whatsoever to do their duties , whilst others have been allocated disproportionate amounts of money for their usage, some SRC members and their subcommittees have been allocated stipends of over R5000 whilst others have been allocated nothing. There are financial irregularities within the procurement of various items by the executive. Having requested a SRC meeting to hold the executors of the SRC budget to account , to ask questions and be shown proper financial records , there had been deliberate evasion on part of the executive.

Clubs and societies are soon to be allocated grants from the SRC budget and we are currently as a collective unaware of what the criteria will be, how conflicts of interest will be dealt with as well as how the integrity of the section panel will be upheld. These are not questions of trivia but of absolute significance relevant to the financial rules and regulations of the university, but also relevant to due process and abuses of power by several members of the Executive.

Several decisions which ought to have been made at a council level are being made exclusively by the executive, the SRC executive has invited foreign dignitaries, announced strikes and several other actions without the consideration and approval of the SRC . This amounts to a fraudulent representation of the SRC by members of the executive.

Section 4 of the SRC constitution states that:

- ***The SRC is committed to the values of co-operative and good governance.***

It is very difficult for other portfolio holders to execute their duties without SRC having met, this is adversely affecting service delivery to the students. Requests for a meeting

have gone unanswered on numerous occasions , on other occasions meetings have been called for without proper consultation and in full knowledge that there would not be a quorum as SRC members were at work or practicing religious ceremonies. These meetings have subsequently led to a cancellation of the meeting.

Section 12 of the SRC constitution states that :

(2) An ordinary meeting of the SRC must be held at least once every month. The first of which must be held on or before 28 November in that year.

We are currently in the third month of the this academic year and there has been no meeting of the SRC , this is a clear violation of the SRC constitution. It holds us as an organization duly elected by the students to follow the rules of the university in contempt.

I submit to your office , that on the administration of finances that are allocated to the SRC due process has not been followed and that the full SRC has not been informed of the processes. Further that several portfolios within the SRC have been illegally not allocated budget to carry out their duties.

I submit to your office that there has been an abuse of power in the executive, that several decisions have been fraudulently represented to the University as decisions of the SRC when they were in fact decisions of a few , not made in a transparent and accountable manner to the full body of the SRC .

I submit that it has been incredibly difficult for portfolio members to actually begin to do their jobs and execute their year plans , without being able to obtain the consent of the SRC and the necessary resources to execute their jobs.

Section 17 of the SRC Constitution states:

(1) *The Secretary-General of the SRC must publish the minutes of each SRC meeting on the official SRC notice-board within two weeks of the meeting. A copy of the minutes must be sent to the Vice Chancellor and the University archives.*

This has not been done at any point this year and is further evidence to substantiate that there has been a failure for the SRC to meet. I mention this in case there is an attempt to distort the facts of my complaint . If anyone contends that we have indeed been having official meetings of the SRC , there must be correctly recorded minutes to corroborate those claims. Minutes which have been shared with the student body. I am willing to make a sworn testament to attest to the inability of the SRC to execute its duties as per the rules and regulations of the University. The SRC has nineteen members , each of whom is duly elected, each of whom has the right to hold the SRC to account and each of whom has a responsibility to the students to effect programs and interventions within their portfolio. Currently 8 members out of 19 are exploiting control of the executive to defeat the rules and regulations of the SRC , as well as to maliciously prevent effective management of the SRC.

In conclusion there has been a failure by the SRC to carry out its duty . In accordance with the stipulated rules within the constitution. I have attempted in several occasions to raise this matter internally but a continued disregard of correspondence regarding this issue has led to a decision to escalate the matter to your hands for consideration. It is my utmost hope that you respond with appropriate remedial action.

Yours sincerely

Mighti Jamie

Wits SRC campus wellness office