

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE DROSTDY HALL COMMITTEE HELD ON  
MONDAY 19 APRIL 2021 AT 18:30 VIA ZOOM MEETING**

**2021.01.01 ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES**

**Present:** Catherine Parkinson (*Chair, Hall Warden & PA Warden*), Sean Nkosi (*Celeste Warden*), Tlamele Mothudi (*AG Warden*), Dr Albert Chakona (*Graham Warden*), Andiswa Cibi (*AG Sub-Warden*), Kwami Mkize (*AG Sub-Warden*), Ayakha Saba (*AG Sub-Warden*), Kgotso Ndlovu (*Celeste Sub-Warden*), Rutendo Gandidze (*Celeste Sub-Warden*), Mohammed Bera (*Graham Sub-Warden*), Furman Nzama (*Graham Sub-Warden*), Antonique Dick (*PA Sub-Warden*), Nkosinomsa Ngwenya (*PA Sub-Warden*), Ricky Mutasa (*Graham Head Student*), Cara Dube (*PA Head Student*).

In attendance: Candice Webber (*Drostdy Hall Administrator*).

**Apologies:** Adv. Shuaib Rahim (*Hall Fellow*), Mr Evert Knoesen (*Hall Fellow*), Natalie Paterson (*Hall Fellow*), Lavisa Sibiyi (*AG Head Student*).

Catherine wished Ricky a happy birthday.

Catherine welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the year, and the first ever virtual Hall Committee Meeting. Catherine explained that at these meetings the student members must feel comfortable to raise points, ask questions, share their views, and these meetings are a platform for students to have a say in the Hall.

There were no objections to the meeting being recorded for minuting purposes.

**2021.01.02 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Hall Committee Meeting held on 17 February 2020 were confirmed by Antonique and Sean.

**2021.01.03 MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the Agenda.

**2021.01.04 OTHER MATTERS FOR THE AGENDA**

1. Hall Senior Student (**2021.01.08**)

**2021.01.05 REPORTS ON RESIDENCES BY HEAD STUDENTS****Prince Alfred**

Cara submitted her report in advance, which was circulated with the Agenda.

**See Appendix I.** This was taken as read and there were no questions regarding this report.

We ask for these reports from the Head Students to give us a summary and enlighten us about what has been happening in their residence. We ask that these reports be submitted ahead of time, as this saves time at the meeting, as then at the meeting members just ask questions or for clarity from the reports if necessary, instead of having to listen to each individual report at the meeting. From the next meeting we will hopefully have a report from each res in advance.

It was noted that currently Celeste do not have a Head Student.

**2021.01.06 DINING HALL RULES IN GENERAL & DISCIPLINE IN THE DINING HALL**

Cath reminded everyone of dining hall rule 26.8 in the Drostdy Hall Rule Book: “No music/devices (including phones) are allowed to be played in the Dining Hall, except at official Hall events. At all times, noise may not be excessive. No shouting or screaming will be permitted.”

Many students have been having loud conversations on phones and playing music while eating in the dining hall, which is probably an offshoot from Covid and people feeling

lonely. It was noted that headphones are allowed. Also, during Covid there are a lot more dining hall rules and we must adhere to that compliance. Covid rules are vitally important which means we must all implement them and discipline based on those.

Currently lots of rules have been broken in the dining hall, with minimal checking happening and making sure students are following rules. Wardens and Sub-Wardens are responsible for discipline in the dining hall space and to implement the rules. Cath has asked the Wardens to be more visible and attend meals in the Dining Hall as this is part of their duties. It was mentioned that some Sub-Wardens feel they need more support from the other Sub-Wardens in the Hall. It was noted that the Sub-Wardens can discipline any students in the Hall, not just students from their res. Catherine asked the Sub-Wardens if they feel they are not supported enough or do they feel they are not empowered to discipline in the dining hall?

With regards to dining hall numbers and seating, we have got notices up and have the rule to eat and go, so the dining hall must not become a social space where people are chatting when they have finished eating. People need to limited time spent in the dining hall. We will ask the dining hall staff to put out two more tables on the verandah. We would like to avoid having to ascribe times for residences to go to the dining hall and we can avoid this if we all tell students to go when they are finished eating.

There are still people taking two juices and a dessert, etc. There is just not any discipline happening in the dining hall. Sub-Wardens themselves are sometimes in the dining hall at the times students are breaking the rules. Sub-Wardens see students breaking the rules and don't approach these students, while other Sub-Wardens are always the only ones to approach students and enforce the rules. Sub-Wardens need to pay more attention while in the dining hall. If an Oakdene student breaks a rule pass this info on to your Warden and then the Warden can follow up with that student. Oakdene also have to follow our rules. If you feel unsupported by Cath or by the Wardens, please feel free to have a chat with Cath or your Warden, but we need to get this right. All Covid rules also apply and students must not sit right opposite each other when eating, we need to be able to keep that social distancing. Going forward we need to work as a team and make sure that students will get the same message from everyone.

It was noted that first years are still all going for lunch at 12h00. Each res needs to remind their students of the dining hall rules and meal times, and that if everyone goes to eat at 12h00 this will cause delays and problems.

**2021.01.07 HALL GRANT FOR FIRST SEMESTER**

With Covid and not having many events etc. and with major budget cuts, finances have changed. We have only received R9621.79 for the first semester and we need to decide how to split this money up. This will depend on whether or not we have a Hall event, as if we do not have a Hall event we can just split up this money between the four residences. It was recommended that we keep money aside for a Hall event, as we do not want to restrict this to res level only, otherwise the residences will not mix with each other at a Hall level. It was noted that this decision would be determined by the next agenda item

**2021.01.08 HALL SENIOR STUDENT**

It was agreed that we need a Hall Senior Student and to open nominations for Hall Senior Student 2021. We will hold off the decision on how to split up the finances until a Hall Senior Student is hopefully in place and will discuss this at the second term Hall Committee meeting.

Before closing the meeting Cath shared the sad news that Albert has resigned as Graham Warden and will be leaving at the end of this term. Albert has been with us since 2016, and prior to that he was the Jan Smuts Warden from 2014. He has offered huge contribution and value to our Hall and it is very sad to see him go, but we understand his reasons due to work commitments at SAIAB. He will still be in Makhanda so we can still call on him. Albert thanked everyone for all their support and wished everyone all the best. The Hall

Committee members wished Albert well. Cath will be in touch with the Graham leadership to discuss the way forward to replace Albert.

After that sad note, two good things to note, firstly that this has been the shortest Hall Committee meeting ever, and secondly, Sean & Tulu are expecting a baby girl in May.

*The meeting ended at 19h05.*

## **Prince Alfred Report**

Prepared for: Hall Committee

Prepared by: Cara Dube

Soon after o-week, house comm started brainstorming ideas on how to keep the students engaged with each other. The following therefore took place, on the last day of o-week we had a reflection night, where we were just reminiscing on everything that has taken place.

The following activities were also hosted, a movie night, a karaoke night, and a mental health session. There is a hike planned for the 17<sup>th</sup> of April, where the residents of Prince Alfred will be hiking to Monument.

Hygiene and noise levels seem to be a reoccurring issue in the residence. Residents are particularly unimpressed with the state of the showers as they feel the shower floors are not cleaned frequently enough.