



Date: 28 July 2015

## **SRC statement with regards to Ms Zizipho Pae**

On the 21st of July 2015 the University of Cape Town (UCT) Students' Representative Council (SRC) sat for a special meeting organised to discuss the matter pertaining to the recent Facebook status made by SRC Vice-President: External Affairs Ms. Zizipho Pae, where she stated: "We are institutionalizing and normalizing sin! Sin. May God have mercy on us..." on the 28th of June 2015. The meeting was organised so as to decide on a way forward regarding Ms. Pae's statement.

At the time of Ms. Pae making said status on Facebook, Ms. Pae was the acting President of the UCT SRC.

After an outcry from the UCT LGBTQIA+ community the SRC President, Mr. Ramabina Mahapa, asked for a formal response from Ms. Pae within 24 hours to explain her rationale behind the initial Facebook status. Ms. Pae replied in writing and restated her religious views and her right to freedom of speech and spoke further on her convictions as a Christian woman in today's society. Ms. Pae also wrote a formal response to an online South African news publication where she reiterated her views and pronounced that she was not homophobic and her statement was to be viewed as freedom of speech and that her Christian views guide her in all things.

Following these two public announcements, the SRC was of the view that Ms. Pae would not be able to represent the views and ideals of the SRC during the vacation period. Thus, Ms. Pae was relieved of her duties in terms of the SRC Vacation Committee. This action was





taken by the SRC Vacation Committee with the consensus of the rest of the SRC via informal communication.

Between the date of the status being published and the meeting of the 21st of July, it must be noted that the University of Cape Town was in the midst of the June/July vacation period. This hindered the SRC from being able to meet to reach a decision as to what the structure should do regarding the matter pertaining to Ms. Pae. It was decided that the SRC would meet formally to investigate the matter once term had begun.

After being relieved of her duties, Ms. Pae proceeded, to have an interview on an online news channel. The interview can be found online. Following this interview, a petition was started to prevent the exclusion of Ms. Pae from the SRC. Concurrently, a petition was started by "The Queer Revolution" with the aim of forcing Ms. Pae to resign from her position. Various articles relating to the two petitions can be found online.

On Sunday the 19th of July preceding the meeting scheduled for Tuesday the 21st, Ms. Pae requested a leave of absence from the SRC. Her reasons were stated to be that of allowing her time to separate herself from the SRC and to seek legal counsel. This was agreed to by Mr. Mahapa and the SRC was informed on the 21st of July 2015, the day of the meeting.

On Monday the 20th of July 2015, "The Queer Revolution" held a march in protest to Ms. Pae's refusal to resign from the SRC. They occupied the SRC offices and handed a memorandum to the SRC President demanding the immediate removal of Ms. Pae from office. The result of the discussion that ensued was that the SRC President, Mr. Mahapa, allowed for specific members to be given observer status for the meeting on the Tuesday.

Once the special meeting began it was observed that not only did "The Queer Revolution" have more members present than originally stipulated, but many other individuals from





many different organisations arrived at the meeting and were allowed to observe so as to give fair representation to all groups who would be affected by the outcome of the special meeting.

The special meeting consisted of 12 SRC members was thus considered to be quorate as per the UCT SRC constitution. The Chair of the meeting, SRC President, Mr Mahapa opened the meeting and allowed for points of discussion and called forward motions from the members. After brief statements from Ms. Thembelihle Ncayiyana, Mr. Sean Woodgate, Ms. Oyama Botha and Mr Simeon Brown, Ms Khanyisa Pinini raised a motion for the Chair to allow for the observers to be allowed to raise points of discussion. They would not, however, be allowed to vote.

This was agreed to by the chair and was voted for by the SRC. The result was as follows:

For: 10

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

The meeting was then opened to observers to comment. The discussion pertained to the feeling of discrimination by some members and the feeling that Ms. Pae was expressing her right to freedom of speech on the matter by others.

During this time observers called for the Chair to step down due to the fact that he was not partial to the cause of the "The Queer Revolution" and that they needed a Chair who was able to understand and empathise with their cause.

This was not taken up by the Chair as it is not the Chair's position to be partial to certain issues over others. Once this was conveyed to the observers, the observers called for him to step down again. The result was that the Chair, Mr Ramabina Mahapa, and Mr. Koketso





John Rammutla leaving the venue. Before leaving, Mr Mahapa had attempted to adjourn the meeting. After the two SRC members had left, Ms Thato Pule was called on by the observers to fulfil her role on the SRC and become a voting member in the meeting; this allowed for quorum to remain. It was decided that procedure would be followed and the Vice-President Internal, Ms. Khanyisa Pinini, would Chair the meeting. As per the reasons cited by her, Ms. Pinini disqualified the adjournment of the meeting by the chair:

- 1) Improper adjournment of meeting
- 2) No grounds founded upon adjournment of meeting

Ms. Pinini asked for the last few comments from the observers to be stated and that once they were, that a motion would arise from the SRC members present. Once the observers had stated their views, Mr. Gregory Keal put forth a motion. This initial motion was then given over to the floor for members to comment and adjust the motion until it was found favourable by the members. The completed motion was voted for by the members present via a secret ballot.

Ms. Pae's removal from the SRC hinged on four grounds for motions of censure brought against her by the SRC at this meeting.

The removal of Ms. Pae was based upon the following student governance legislation -  
SRC Constitution:

### 2.3.3

b) Failure, without an excuse acceptable to the SRC, to carry out duties entrusted to him/her by the SRC.

### SRC Code of Conduct

-Sowing seeds of racism, sexism, tribalism, regionalism, xenophobia, homophobia and chauvinism; (this particular charge related to homophobia)





-Creating factionalism within the SRC and/or its sub-structures; encouraging or participating in the creation of cliques and cabals. Thus, this decision will go through without any investigation from the CRRC as the SRC can overwrite any decision that the structure takes.

The results of this motion are as follows:

For: 7

Against: 1

Abstain: 0

Following this, the motion was taken as passed by the members present. As stipulated by the motion above, Ms. Pae was deemed to have been immediately expelled from the SRC following the outcome of the special meeting on Tuesday the 21st of July.

Sincerely,

SRC 2015

