

MINUTES

Meeting of the SRC Presidents (Constituted in Johannesburg on 31st May, 1972), SASO Executive Committee and representatives of SASO on campuses.

Held at Alan Taylor Residence on Saturday 17th June, 1972.

Chairman: Mannie Jacobs (UDW), Convernor of Council of SRC Presidents.

1. Review of activities on campuses since the mass expulsion of Turfloop students on May 4th.
2. Events leading to the Alice Declaration of May 13 whereby all black students were called upon to absent themselves from classes "with effect from 1st June when it is expected that ALL Turfloop students will be returning to university."
3. The fact that this decision was published in the Sunday press even before the SRCs were consulted came under serious discussion. It was believed that this tended to pre-empt university authorities and intimidate students even before the students have planned themselves. On the other hand it was held that students actually responded to the ALICE call when they protested in June and fully aligned themselves with student resentment of authoritarian universities throughout the country. The SRCs resented the fact that they were not adequately consulted.
4. The fact that the image of SASO was affected in some circles is due entirely to the tendency for people to want to find a refuge for their frustrations. SASO merely articulated the feeling of the mass student.
5. As a national organisation whose aim is to cater for and protect the interests of black students, SASO found itself in a dilemma where the leadership called upon SASO to keep out as the issues were local and no extraneous involvement was desired. However as the activities escalated the students were looking for direction from SASO. Hence there was lack of co-ordination in the protest.
6. It was generally felt that the Alice meeting never undertook any planning for follow up on the protest nor did it perceive or give direction to the future. This tended to make the demonstrations boring and unproductive.

In the light of this it was resolved that the council of SRC Presidents should meet more regularly - to identify common concerns, make the decisions and cooperate with SASO in their implementation and programming:

That this meeting of SASO Executive and SRC Presidents

NOTING:

- 1) that the confusion in direction the recent days throughout black campuses
- 2) The fact that this was the result of debate over the question of allegiance to SASO
- 3) that this could have been avoided by proper consultation between SASO and the SRCs

THEREFORE RESOLVES that

- a) in the event of decisions requiring mass student support, all powers of decision regarding direction be left to the council of SRC Presidents.
- b) The said council should at all times invite a member of SASO Executive to its meeting

- c) detailed programming and strategy during whatever action is being undertaken should primarily be the responsibility of the SASO Secretariat whose machinery should be made available to the said council at no cost
- d) the council shall remain a structureless body with only the convener as an elected official

CARRIED.

It was also noted that the position of the SRCs on black campuses is at stake since the authorities intend to prime these constitutions further. The students may then refuse to be subjected to such a constitution. In such an event the Council becomes the Council of Student Leaders to allow for representation of all black campuses.

PLANNING AND STRATEGY

9. The meeting viewed with concern the looming suspension and rigidity of SRC Constitutions. This has given rise to the mass withdrawal from campus bodies and to a serious reconsideration of whether the strike should be revitalised. It was suggested that such boycotts begin on August 5th. Every effort should be employed to make this event successful.

POSITIVE OFFENSIVE

- 1. Students now outside university should hold mass meetings presenting their minimum demands to their parents and the wider black community and equipping them with the intimate details. The parents should then be encouraged to form a National Vigilante Group consisting of parents and other black people.
- 2. Groups like SASO and SRC (including City Branches) should consult as many community organisations as possible and get them come out in support of student action.
- 3. The MINIMUM DEMANDS should be discussed by student groups and be popularised so as to broaden the conscientized force of students.
- 4. When students go back to campus they should meet and consider any immediate grievances :
  - 1) expulsion of some students
  - 2) banning of SASO from campuses
  - 3) suspension of SRC constitution

They may then present MINIMUM DEMANDS to the student body. These will then be re-submitted to the university authorities together with short-term demands listed above.

5. Protest demonstrations will be held (perhaps for a limited period i.e. 2 weeks) and, if no responses forthcoming, to call upon all students to march out of the universities etc.

RESTORATIVE OPERATION

- a) Meantime SASO shall immediately publicise a call for funds to assist afflicted students. This must be a nation wide and international call.
- b) SASO shall write to several overseas universities and request that students should be allowed to write their examinations.
- c) SASO shall then institute the idea of a FREE UNIVERSITY after proper investigations.

10. Problems were envisaged in the attempt to close down the universities.

- the division in the student ranks
- the desire of parents that children should acquire degrees or professional certificates
- numerous other problems facing students in their academic life.

11. In planning for the activities of August 5th all these issues should be tackled convincingly to ensure mass support.

12. The meeting ended with an analysis of the plans for the forthcoming conference by the Secretary General of SASO.