

Conclusion

The challenges facing student governance today cannot be resolved simply by constitutional acumen. Proper administration of student governance can, however, go a long way in providing an excellent basis from which these challenges can be tackled.

The new role of the SRC as a partner in governance raises questions as to how best the student body must be organised in order to take on such a role. While the procedures and intricacies of constitutional governance as described in this book may seem to complicate student governance, they demonstrate that the student body has a capacity to take itself seriously and strengthen its hand as an equal partner in the higher education sector.

Principles captured in this publication can therefore be easily applied in constitutional processes of other organs of student governance, such as house committees, sports bodies, and national and regional organisations.

In deepening democracy the processes outlined in the previous chapter are as important as their outcome. If the process is not seen as impartial or is seen as a manipulated process meant to serve a certain group within the student body, the product will not be credible. The law hardly succeeds in safeguarding constitutions. The people who are served by the constitution are the ones who are its ultimate guardians. A fully consultative process that takes everyone on board is important for the sustainability of the resultant regime of student governance.

In practical terms this means that if all interests in the student body are taken into account in arriving at a final product, regardless of who has the reigns of the SRC in the next elections, the fundamentals of that dispensation will be kept intact. The group coming into office will not feel the need to tamper with a product they played an integral part in developing.



This is a clear warning to those who are tempted to use their term of office to ram through constitutional changes in an undemocratic manner for political expediency. When it becomes a habit for every SRC to review the constitution, that does not enhance the integrity of the student body and will prevent it from being taken seriously as a partner in good governance.

It is critical therefore not to resort to short cuts when it comes to constitutional review. The more thorough the job, the better.

We hope that you have found this publication useful and look forward to receiving your input to improve future projects with the same objective: to build the student body for the transformation of the higher education sector and our society.

