

ACADEMIC AND LEGAL AFFAIRS MANIFESTO

RE-IMAGINE, REIGNITE,
REVIVE THE STUDENT VOICE

By Anesu Mushonga

VISION

As young people, we demand a world where we are empowered to lead a happy, inclusive and healthy life, free from any form of discrimination and violence; where our rights, our choices and our bodies are respected and where we can realize our full potential to transform our communities and create sustainable change.

Who am I?

Hello and a good day to you all, my name is Anesu Ruvimbo Mushonga, a 2.2 Zimbabwean student studying Social Work and I am running for the Academic and Legal affairs secretary position. I firmly stand by the notion that as students we have the right to control and be the central voice of our own education through a sound, steady and reliable Student Representative Council. I also accept as true that it is of great importance to have someone who is exceptionally devoted and concerned with the student academic and legal affairs.



What drove me to run and why you should vote for me?

The Promise of Greater 'Efficiency'

In practice, I am keen on attaining a beneficial, futuristic academic and legal diverse but elevating atmosphere for you with your help. Help me to fulfil and positively manifest our “Leaders are made here” dream.

I would also like to provide a proper and effective channel of communication between the student body and the university authorities as I have stated above, every student has a voice when it comes to the academic side of things. I believe well developed communication skills are vital for the achievement of academic and legal success from a well-established institution like Africa University.

I am a strong believer in the following virtues: consistency, transparency and effectiveness. In life generally and when one holds such positions one has to be keen, with utmost sincerity and earnest devotion without reservation or misgiving, I promise to work hard and achieve these virtues.

Finally, and most importantly, I believe that all students deserve respect. Many students and their parents/ guardians have made large sacrifices and worked hard to get here. Therefore as the Academic and Legal affairs secretary, I would eagerly want to dispel (with the fellow members of the SRC) any students' concerns, dissatisfactions, and general wellbeing that is poorly dealt with by the system.

Main aims and course of action

ACADEMICS

- One of my main aims is to push for consistency from the administration and admissions department to create a standardized way of the admission of new students that bears in mind the Universities resources such as classrooms.
For instance, the Social Work August 2019 batch were about 150 give or take, the problem then arose when we would sometimes not have classrooms to fit us all and we would spend significant time looking for a suitable classroom.
- Pushing for the efficiency of Wi-Fi on campus whether at the school area or hostels and off campus too.
- As we know we are in the midst of a worldwide pandemic and most students are at home, the issue of data packages is concerning as not everyone has Wi-Fi. I will push for affordable and efficient data packages for all students in need of it.

SEB System

Well not trying to discredit the SEB system that was recently introduced by the school in hope to advance the online experience, we should also shed some light on the few weaknesses it has.

1. First of all, not a lot of people are well versed with this system. Hence questions like, does it work on phones? Even for the laptops, is it laptop friendly? Will obviously arise.
2. The system is causing most laptops to freeze.

3. It has a specific time limit. For example, let us say there is an exam that takes 3 hours once you open that exam you have 3 hours to complete this exam

Then one might think were certain factors like Faulty Wi-Fi connection, Constant ZESA issues, Laptop problems considered in the implementation of this system?

Most of these problems are not in students' control, how will they go about it when ZESA is being problematic at a specific area and the exam is needed in 3 hours' time? Will the lectures tolerate this and give students a second chance to write the exam?

In as much this system is a step in the right direction, at least students could have been asked for their opinion on it because at the end of the day WE the students are supposed to write exams with it. With me in office I would make sure that there is full transparency pertaining to Academic and Legal issues because the student voice also MATTERS!!!

TRANSPORT

- I will advocate for a flexible bus timetable for students and staff.
- I will also push for the availability of spare busses to avoid inconveniencing students in terms of catching their lectures on time. This is in the event that all students go back to campus and to those that are already there.

HEALTH CARE

- I will push for hours that are more flexible at the clinic and advocate for the opening of the clinic even at night because injuries and accidents are not time cautious they can occur anytime.
- Mental health is of utmost importance in our day and age this is why I would also advocate for online and on campus therapists who would help with the Mental Health fight.

ACCOMODATION

- I would push for easier attainability of accommodation on and off campus with the help of the social welfare committee and the Warden, for both local and international students.

FOOD

- Pertaining to those staying on campus the type of food they eat is also a crucial issue. I would constantly advocate for better food quality from the DH until the demands as per the student body are met.

SECURITY

- Security measures in any environment are for the benefit of everyone, that Security measures at Africa University should be dealt with a firm hand.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

- Well, with the help of our Sports and Entertainment committee we will surly make sure everyone enjoys themselves in University, regardless of most students being at home or on campus.

ATTACHMENT

- I will work hand in hand to look for attachment places for those going to attachment because at the present moment the school only helps a few of the people that have a 3.5 and above CGPA and the rest are left to fend for their selves, which would not be practical considering we are in the midst of a global pandemic.

How Could This Happen?

Various processes have led to this state of affairs and the majority of these we are, as a university. The university is a success because we cooperated en masse – and still do, to this day. Together we can conquer.

If Arguments no Longer Count, it is Time for Action!

