



Constitutional Tribunal  
(Student Court)  
*Fiat Justitia*

## CONSTITUTIONAL TRIBUNAL (STUDENT COURT) OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

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### Student Forum Article

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The Constitutional Tribunal (Student Court) is the judicial arm of student governance at the University of Pretoria. It functions as an independent, impartial, objective student court. Further to this section 43 (e) of the Constitution for Student Governance (CSG) empowers the Tribunal, particularly the Chief Justice to preside over the constitutionally mandated student forum. The first forum of the year was held on the 5th of May 2022 at the Sanlam Auditorium - University of Pretoria.

As described in Chapter 5 of the CSG, student forum is a forum in which students hold SRC members accountable. In addition to all the SRC members, attendance is required by faculty house chairpersons and deputies, student committee executives and residence and Day House chairpersons. Student attendance, as part of the student body, is encouraged and welcome. Rules for the student forum can be found in the CSG as well as the rules for student forum documents on the Constitutional Tribunal website.

Due to the contentious nature of the forum, adherence to the prescribed rules is vital. The Chief Justice, in their capacity as the presiding officer of the forum begins the meeting and ensures quorum is met. The Chief Justice maintains order, recognises members - should they wish to speak - keeps time and closes the meeting. To aid the Chief Justice with keeping minutes and time, the Registrar or an appointed Judge of the Constitutional assumes this role.

In line with the prescribed rules and to maintain a respectful and orderly environment, gross and disorderly misconduct, unacceptable language or gestures as well as unnecessary interruptions are prohibited. The Chief Justice, accordingly, maintains the discretion to warn and exclude any noncompliant members as well as end the meeting as soon there is a disruption. Whilst student forum offers the opportunity to raise concerns that deeply affect attendants, respect and the dignity of others must always be maintained .

In accordance with the vision of democracy, the University values the voices of the student body and as such, the student forum is a way to ensure that their voices are heard. In addition to the student forum serving as an accountability mechanism, its importance lies in the fact that it allows students and student structures alike to air their concerns and pose questions to the SRC in a mediated setting. Issues regarding student life, academics, funding, student accommodations and more are addressed in this forum and as such, student attendance is vital to ensure that they are informed of the various processes, changes, and progress being made in the University.

-Written by Judge Chibugom Abanno & Judge Lesedi Ngubeni

- Edited by Chief Justice Tiara Joseph

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