Good Evening. My name is Axolile Qina, your SRC Chairperson and fellow Maties students. We welcome you Parents, family, siblings and new Maties. We welcome you on this exciting journey and stage in your life called University; the stage that comes with most freedom and growth; the stage where you will make decisions that will have an impact on the rest of your life. University is an interesting place, when defined it’s: “a high-level educational institution in which students study for degrees and academic research is done.” When we begin to look at the word in isolation, we see there is a universal aspect from the word “Uni”, where different people from different cultures, racial groups, languages and religious backgrounds from around the country, continent and world share a space to learn. However University is so much more than that, it is where some of the greatest inventions where first developed, creation of many philosophical and ideological ideas, sport hero’s and leaders who had a positive and negative impact on society. University is also a place where one begins to understand their identity, a place with many challenges, and often met with great discomfort at times and memories which you will remember in your older years.

There is a vision that is Stellenbosch, a campus that is inclusive, innovative, value driven and future focused; A Stellenbosch University that is multi-religious, multi-sexual, multi-cultural, and multi-lingual; where institutions become hubs of academic excellence, thought leaders, and world changers. Where we are governed by values that give space for one’s individual identity to be respected in the collective identity that we share, being our humanity, and in the shared space we share in our various student communities. To get to this vision and ideal will be difficult. But we need to listen effectively, listen to understand and not just listen selectively; for as the proverb reads: “to answer before listening is foolish and shameful”.

We have entered into an interesting time not only as campus but also as a country. However this crossroads which is upon us all calls for a choice to be made. A choice to work together and take responsibility to build and develop as a nation and a campus; or we carry on being divided and placing our own self conceived entitlements above the need of others. “If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.”- Mother Teresa. If we do not repent and turn around our fellow human beings will continue to suffer and be oppressed by the scars of our past which will evidently worsen our future. We need a metanoia, which is the Greek word Repent or turn around; which calls us to turn around of 180 degrees for the sake of our human other.

Our history has not assisted us in this process and the call is on us to be the generation that not only changes South Africa’s but also develops it too. We cannot get there if we are not convicted with these marred perceptions of social construction, class, and racial identities. Thomas Jefferson said it best: “All people are created equal”. Martin Luther King Jr. prophetically said: “I see a time where people will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character.” I believe it is that time but the complexities to get there are real and will be difficult. Character directs people to integrity. The Egyptian principle comes to mind: The Maa’t was an ancient Egyptian concept of truth, balance, order, harmony, law, morality and justice. It represents an ethical and moral principles that every Egyptian citizen was expected to follow throughout their daily lives.

So what does this collective vision and challenge mean for us as individuals? What is our individual social responsibility? Universities are soo much more than places of studying but also of growth, as the choices one makes here will have an impact on your future. We must go beyond our degrees and think innovatively to develop and impact society, as well as influence and build relationships in our student communities and with our fellow Matie students. “Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.”-Aristotle. This calls for leadership not only in this collective vision and challenge but also individually in our lives and responsibilities. You are the next leaders, world changers that we envision and hope for in society. “A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. That person does not set out to be a leader, but becomes one by the equality of the person’s actions and the integrity of their intent”-Douglas MacArthur. It’s not only just being confident, courageous, and compassionate but also disciplined, committed, determined, and diligent. Jeremie Kubiek helps us when he says liberating leader ensure true influence and calls us to: Humble ourselves; empower others; Listen to emotions as well as word; Practise empathy; and lead others to success through service mentality. University offers us the platform to develop your character and integrity. We can begin by asking ourselves the following questions:

Who are you? (Identity)

Why am I here? (Purpose)

What can I do? (Potential)

Where am I going? (Destiny)

Where do I come from? (Source)

What are your values that you guide? (Your value system)

We are all born leaders and have to be proactive and effective in our unique diverse ways. We need to continue to develop and leave seeds for others to build on for the sake of the future generation that will come afterwards us. Stephen Covey says: “Proactive people focus their efforts on the circle of influence to shrink the circle of concern, where they are focused on their own paradigms, begin to create energy of influence by building relationships as they are people who make love a verb, and subordinate their feelings to values”. We need to begin with the end in mind and know that our efforts are not in vain. Personal development and integrity is key where John C. Maxwell identifies in his book, *Develop the Leader within you*, that integrity is the most important ingredient of leadership. For John C. Maxwell integrity does the following:

* Integrity builds trust
* Integrity has High influence value
* Integrity facilitates High Standards
* Integrity results in a solid reputation, not just an image
* Integrity means living it myself before leading others.
* Integrity helps a leader be credible, not just clever
* Integrity is a hard-won achievement

“Be the change you want to see”- Gandhi. There is a light in you all, for you are the light of the world and the world is waiting on us to be that change and overcome this shade that attempts to cover and limit our potential. Like Mahatma Gandhi said: ““It's the action, not the fruit of the action, that's important. You have to do the right thing. It may not be in your power, may not be in your time, that there'll be any fruit. But that doesn't mean you stop doing the right thing. You may never know what results come from your action. But if you do nothing, there will be no result.” So I ask you. What legacy will you leave, my fellow Maties Students? How will you be remembered? Go now and be great.

# Introduce and Welcoming of the SRC

Our vision as an SRC is this campus that is inclusive, innovative, and future-focused, as we believe this ensures student success. Our mission is to UNITE, an accroynm which we use in our various portfolio’s calling students to:

U - Utilizing structures effectively

N - Network, negotiate and communicate (internally and externally)

I - Innovatively developing the Maties Identity

T - Think critically, creatively and practically

E - Ensure equal opportunities for all

If it’s information regarding communication that you need of the SRC then the energetic and very hands on Vice Chairperson **James De Villiers** is the one; if policy concerns in terms of constitutions, our very confident Secretary General **Marc Rudolph** will assist; if you are thinking of transformation then you not only have the transformation office but also the progressive SRC of Transformation **Bradley Frolick**; if you want to join or start a society **Kara Meiring** will gladly assist as as Chair of Societies Council; if success is what you are striving **Lwazi Phakade** is always willing to serve you as SRC of Student Success; Thinking of building relationships with other Higher education institutions then **Carina Stapelberg** SRC of Branding and External Relations; we also have a future CA as our Treasurer **Lianda Du Plessis**; Tygerberg you have the trustworthy and ethical **“Dr” Wayne, Nick** Chair of the Tygerberg SRC; Milak your Captain **Tumelo Motse** is more than capable of attending to the concern; learning about perspective **Wim Steyn** Prim Committee Chair can give you insight; In a residence and wondering about who’s your caretaker, **Inge Barac** Vice chair of Prim Committee will assist; Academic concerns and queries on language the wise **Natasha Wouberg** (Academic council Chair) can direct you; innovatively thinking of technology and sustainability we have **Letiwe Mbatha;** your sport representative is the down to earth **Siyabulela Duna**; innovatively thinking and developing the Matie Identity, **Bandile Mndebele;** want to critically engage and learn more about Gender identities and Sexuality we have **Reanne Olivier**, or Consciousness we our very passionate **Khadija Bawa**, and when are talking about changing the narrative with Women Empowerment we have **Farai Mubaiwa**; interested in SER and Arts and Culture we have **Marieke Brand**; you want to serve the community and have a social impact we have **Danny Bezuidenhoudt**; for all your safety and infrastructure concerns we have **Mynhard Kruger**; Postgraduate and International students **Tino Muzofa** will gladly attend to your concerns effectively.

We are your SRC of 2015/2016. We welcome you and lets journey together. Please support our #RegisterAll campaign that we have initiated for registration for students to increase access to University.

# Introducing Tayla Faulmann

It is now my great pleasure for me to introduce to you the next speaker, Tayla Faulmann. Miss Faulman is a student leader, where she spent five years in Metanoia where she served on numerous leadership platforms finishing off with being Onder-primaria last year. Tayla has also been involved in sport where she played Maties waterpolo and served on her residences football committee. Tayla has also served in her faculty department and served on the Natural Sciences Committee. Tayla is now currently in her second year of Masters degree of Science in physiology; where she obtained cum laude her undergraduate degree, Bsc Sport Science, and honours degree in Physiological Sciences in cum laude. Now without further a due I invite the next key note speaker to address us, Tayla Faulman.