



SRC 2020/2021 Annual Report

Viwe Kobokana, Transformation, viwek@sun.ac.za

Contents

Constitutional Responsibilities	1
Portfolio Overview.....	1
Committees / Task Teams	2
Year Overview	2
Term 1	2
Term 2.....	4
Term 3.....	5
Term 4.....	6
Budget.....	7
Budget & Reasoning.....	7
Expenditure so far.....	7
Recommendations to improve portfolio	8
Important Contacts.....	8

Constitutional Responsibilities

Transformation does not have specific constitutional responsibilities outside of those stated in the SU Student Constitution for the SRC in its entirety. Chapter 3 (1) to act in the best interest of students and to actively promote students' rights under (11); (2) to represent students at – (a) the University Council; (b) the Senate; (c) the Institutional Forum; (d) other committees, bodies and functionaries of the University; and (e) national and international student bodies; (3) to evaluate the University policy and give input in the formulation thereof; (4) to consider the advice of Student Parliament; (5) facilitate projects and initiatives to the benefit of students; (6) to facilitate projects and initiatives to the benefit of students; and (7) to formulate and maintain policy in order to ensure that the Student Representative Council performs its functions and duties effectively.

Portfolio Overview

SRC Transformation's role is to create a diverse student experience that will best promote human dignity and justice. A welcoming campus that values the rights of everyone and appreciates the differences that exist amongst human beings is the greatest success of transformation. The portfolio offers the institution and the student body a greater understanding of justice. It is through it that discrimination is intolerable within the academic spaces. The portfolio advocates for equity for everyone. It offers persons an opportunity to be treated as human beings without fear.

saam vorentoe · masiye phambili · forward together

The Transformation Officer has a duty to represent all students on campus. It strives towards providing a student experience that is welcoming to everyone without discriminating. We are shaped by the environments that we originate from as students.

It is therefore the responsibility of the Transformation Officer to bridge the gap by providing a global experience that will not violate the rights of others based on their language, gender, religion, social class, and political affiliation. The goal is to create an environment that will offer students an opportunity to learn from one and another through embracing multiculturalism. Human dignity and justice guide the transformation agenda.

Committees / Task Teams

1. Transformation and Critical Engagement Forum – Head
2. Student Institutional Transformation Committee – Chairperson
3. Institutional Transformation Committee
4. Institutional Forum
5. Division of Student Affairs Transformation Forum
6. Institutional Advisory Committee on Internationalisation
7. RegisterAll task team – Main campus and Tygerberg campus
8. Matie-to-Matie Financial Assistance Committee
9. Unfair discrimination, HIV and GBV Policy task team
10. Transformation Office Internal Review Task Team
11. Transformation Policy Task Team

Year Overview

Term I

The first term was a rather busy one for the Transformation portfolio. I decided that a lot of the groundwork for 2021 needed to be completed by the end of 2020 so that by the beginning of the year, all there is left to do is tie up loose ends. I first reached out to Babalwa Gusha from the Transformation Office, who gave me a breakdown of what student-led transformation had looked like in the past few years. This helped orientate me and point me in the direction of what needed to be done in my term on the SRC. She further assisted me by looping me into the staff members who would be able to further the transformation agenda on an institutional level.

Once I had all of this information, I met with a longtime student leader and senior student, Mokgeseng Ramaisa, who briefed me on transformation from a student perspective – what was attempted, what failed, and what succeeded but failed in terms of longevity. This information helped me a lot as I did not want to start from scratch with my work, I wanted to build on what my predecessors had done but find a way to use resources and people who would ensure that this work lasts longer than my term.

1. My first job was assisting Babalwa and the outgoing SITC with the annual Student Transformation Indaba. The event was online, and the theme was “A Case for Embedding the Student ITC at SU”.

2. While assisting with the Student Indaba, I put out a call to all House Committee and Faculty Committee leaders whose portfolios are related to transformation and critical engagement to join the TCE (Transformation and Critical Engagement) Forum. I created this forum as a method of streamlining transformation in different university communities. There are 42 members in the forum from residences, and faculties from main and Tygerberg campuses.
3. I then also designed the Critical Engagement Forum Capacity Programme (CEFCP) for the members of the forum and reached out to Babalwa from Transformation Office, Yeki Mosomothane from the Division of Student Affairs, and Spurgeon Wilson from the FVZS Institute. The programme equips the TCE Forum members with facilitation skills to hold conversations and collective sense-making, on sometimes uncomfortable yet important subjects that are inevitable in transforming spaces. Babalwa and Yeki's roles are to ensure that this programme is institutionalised so that after my term in office, TO and DSAf merely reach out to my successor and brief them on how to put the Forum members together, and what is needed from their side as the SRC Transformation Officer, however the content and funding are covered by their offices. Spurgeon's role is to assist with content and training of the facilitation part of the programme, editing FVZS's Facilitative Leadership Course to suit the needs and timeline of the CEFCP.
4. My first event for the term was a critical engagement in collaboration with UCT's Open Mind Society. We had an online discussion on Afrophobia, this was on the 29th of October 2020. The event took place on an online platform provided by OMS, and despite attendance all in all being around 20 people, it was a very fruitful and exhilarating discussion.
5. I was invited to write an opinion piece on behalf of the TSR and SRC for the DSAf Transformation Forum Newsletter, addressing what we as leaders consider a transformative student experience and what our expectation, if any, is from DSAf and the institution in engaging in creating this experience. I reached out to Kristin Arends, the TSR Chair, and asked her if she would like to ask the TSR's Social Justice Manager, Realeboga Mothupi, to send me a piece and I would then combine the two so that the TSR and SRC speak in one voice. I did this because one of our goals was to bridge the gap between the campuses.
6. After the decisions taken by Rectorate and CSC regarding Huis Marais, I decided that intervention by SRC Transformation and Women and Queer Empowerment (WAQE) was needed. I therefore organised weeklong meetings with a few students and leaders in the residence to hear from them what the conditions in the residence are like, what the relationships between the students, the leaders and the House Father are like. After that I wrote up a summary that I shared with Ayesha as the WAQE Head, Xola as the SRC Chair, and Kira as the SRC Vice Chair. This was all in preparation for the meeting we eventually had with some Rectorate members, Dr Makhetha from DSAf, and Pieter Kloppers from CSC. The most important outcome of that meeting was that SRC Transformation needed to keep an eye on Huis Marais and really assist the residence to transform as the solution cannot solely be placed in the hands of those who were part of creating the problem.
7. I was the SRC representative on the #Action4Inclusion team. When I joined the team, I identified that a lot of work was required regarding marketing as well as brand identity. Therefore, my main responsibility became liaising with Corporate Comms to design the campaign's logo, posters, website, and home pages on the GivenGain and Maties Connect pages. Our big events for the year were the Table Mountain Hike and the Idas Valley trail walk. I organised and budgeted for transport for the Table Mountain Hike, so all students did was send me their details and I put them on the list for transport to and from Cape Town.
8. I started the BeYou initiative which assists students who wish to have their titles on the University system and on their student cards reflect their correct gendered or non-gendered titles (Mr., Miss, Mx) if they have since changed from their time of application. I asked the Registrar for assistance with the implementation of this initiative as it required a lot of

administrative work, and she gladly agreed. She gave me a contact in the Centre for Student Information System Support (SISS), Helene Nieuwoudt. I will be working closely with her on the progress of the initiative administratively. I also felt it would be best to tag in someone from the TSR so that they can assist from a Tygerberg perspective so I asked the Social Justice Manager, Realeboga Mothupi, to work with me on this initiative and she agreed so we will be handling everything together.

9. I was a member of the core team for the RegisterAll task team dealing with both Stellenbosch and Tygerberg campuses. My main duties were to create a list of the students who were eligible for funding from the initial screening weekly meetings, after the initial weekly screening meetings, and sending it to the bursary departments and Post graduate office. I was also responsible for informing the Registrar's division of the outcome of the students who will be receiving funding from the campaign.

Term 2

The second SRC term being the first term of the 2021 academic year meant we had a very busy term ahead.

1. Mine began long before pre-welcoming, as I formed part of the Register-All task teams for Stellenbosch and Tygerberg campuses. Being that most of the work of the task team was done during the holiday, most of the work at this point was finalising the lists to be sent to the Registrar's Division and to CUBL as well as Post Graduate office. There were some last-minute decisions that needed to be made, however because I was running the newcomer transport initiative, I was unable to attend some of those emergency meetings.
2. I conceptualised and ran a very new and exciting initiative during Welcoming Week with the help of Gina Sibanda – Student Financial Access. This was the newcomer transport initiative that transported newcomers arriving in the Western Cape from the airport, bus stops, and various other locations to Stellenbosch. This was a logistical nightmare, but it was ultimately worth it when we received all the thank-yous, not just from the newcomers, but from their worried parents as well. Gina and I planned this from when we arrived back in Stellenbosch, which was the middle of February. We communicated with the Vice Primis of the houses to get house-specific details and sometimes members of the particular communities the newcomers were part of joined the trip to welcome the newcomer with open arms. We contacted the newcomers through Google forms that we created and asked the VPs to share as they were given the contact details of the newcomers. It was then a lot of late-night phone calls to the newcomers and sometimes the VPs that finalised the arrival details.
Organising the transport was probably the easiest part, I opened a call for volunteer drivers who would receive lunch and dinner packs as well as snacks, but would not get paid. I then sent their details to Sharine who booked the varying sizes in vehicles, 5, 7, 10, 11 seaters. This was probably top 2 of the most rewarding projects I ran.
3. I was invited to be part of one section of the HC training during pre-welcoming, where the focus was on the importance and relevance of critical engagement. I really enjoyed doing that training and would like to be given that opportunity again (well, for my successor). From the feedback I received from some HCs, my session was one of the ones that felt relevant and informative to their role as HCs and I think this is something that should be taken into consideration for future HC trainings
4. This has been a very exciting term for the CEFCP! Delecia David played a very big part in developing the programme further and we hope to launch it in August, if all goes well with our timeline. Babalwa has since left the university, and Delecia is being replaced by another member of CSLEEC so our timeline pay shift to accommodate the new changes however I am confident that the programme can still be launched on time if we work harder than we were working before.

5. The end of the first academic term marked the first submissions for the students' part of the BeYou initiative. I have been in communication with Helene from SISS and the changes might be done by the end of this week, after which all is left are the new student cards and I am very excited about this. I have not yet been able to figure out a payment arrangement between the SRC and IT HUB for these student cards but will note it once everything has been arranged. I hope to have some group psychology sessions this term as we were not able to plan any last term.
6. I have been doing some work on the other institutional committees I sit on, but I think one thing I want to note in this report is what I presented at an SRC Exec-DSAf and SRC Exec-RMT meeting – which is the lack of diversity but particularly the lack of black psychologists at CSCD. This is an issue that has continuously been raised over the years and after meeting with Charl Davids, the Deputy Director and Head at the Unit for Psychotherapeutic and Support Services, he gave me a better understanding of why this issue has been so ongoing which allowed us to investigate realistic and possible solutions. The presentation was well received by Rectorate and Prof Deresh Ramjugernath said that this was something he has been looking into himself since being appointed the DVC of Learning and Teaching. This is something I will continue to engage with him on and hope to leave office with a concrete way forward as opposed to promises.

Term 3

1. The Transformation Committee planned an amazing workshop for the SRC that focused on engaging on various topics related to different spheres of transformation such as mental health, the decolonisation of education, gender and sexuality, and race. The purpose of this workshop was to allow the SRC members an opportunity to not only engage on these topics to have a better understanding of them but also to assist them in knowing how to embed transformation in their portfolios. To my disappointment the workshop, although compulsory was very poorly attended by the SRC as many sent in apologies and excuses. Despite the date for the workshop being on the SRC calendar for two weeks before I officially sent information about the workshop, there were only about 7 SRC members out of 22 (excluding myself) who were in attendance. I addressed this with the SRC at the following SRC meeting explaining that my committee worked tirelessly to design a workshop that catered specifically to the needs of the SRC and ensured that the content the speakers were presenting was relevant and implementable by the SRC in planning events, making decisions, and even reviewing policies. I have not hidden the fact that I believe our SRC requires a much more in-depth understanding of transformation to effectively represent students and the lack of attendance by the SRC puts into question how seriously my colleagues take the issue of transformation across the institution. Nonetheless, my committee and I are looking at alternative methods of still getting the content across as there is still a term left for us in office and that is still time to at least begin the process of understanding what the transformative student experience we are trying to achieve looks like.
2. With June being international Pride Month I worked with Ayesha as the WAQE SRC member to make this June a memorable one in the history of our institution. We planned a very busy Pride Week that included a movie screening at Pulp in collaboration with QueerUs, a Pride Expo at the TSS in collaboration with Spectrum, a virtual sex-education talk in collaboration with LLL, a virtual safe space, and a Pride March around Stellenbosch where we gifted 37 pride flags to residences and PSOs on both Stellenbosch and Tygerberg campus. We also managed to procure a mobile pride banner wall that was graciously sponsored by Facilities Management. This I believe was a week that will be remembered in the university for a very long time.
3. After engaging with SU MSA I assisted them by bringing up to Prof Ramjugernath the issue of exams being set on Eid dates. Prof Ramjugernath alerted me to the fact that this falls under the Registrar, Dr Retief however he was able to assist by discussing this with her in two

meetings he had with her. This proved to be of great assistance as the exams set to be written on Eid on the 21st of July were moved to the 20th of July. This allowed Muslim students to celebrate this important day and not have to worry about choosing between academics and religion. I was informed that the Registrar set up an advisory panel that will assist the Examination Office with setting exam dates around various religious holidays. I will communicate with the Registrar to get confirmation of this so that an official update can be given to students.

4. I joined a meeting between the SRC Chairperson, Xola, and Prof Ramjugernath to raise numerous concerns particularly around the stagnancy when it comes to transformation in living spaces. In that meeting I also checked in on the issue raised earlier in the year of the lack of black psychologists at CSCD. The update that I was given was that Prof Ramjugernath has collected a list of staff members who will be retiring or whose contracts will be ending soon. There is an active effort to fill these positions across many university departments with black staff members. This came as a welcomed surprise as it shows the university's intentionality to have its racial demographics depict those of the country's.

Term 4

1. The flagship project of this term was the collaboration of Student Wellness for Women's' Month. We first had a series of videos that were shared on the Student Wellness Instagram page of inspirational women in the university. We then had a roundtable discussion with student leaders on the challenges of being a woman or non-binary student leader in Stellenbosch. That was then followed by a giveaway on the Rooiplein where we handed out goodie bags and shared 3 Women's Month playlists.
2. For Student Wellnesses final Wellness Wednesday, the theme was imposter syndrome, where we unpacked and discussed the topic with Dr Dube.
3. We held a grief support group session which was not well attended, however the students that were in attendance shared how helpful it was. So I would like for the sessions to continue in hopes of attendance growing along the way.
4. I confirmed the structure of the transformation workshop for the incoming SRC. After consultation with the incoming chairperson and vice chairperson, the session will occur during the SRC's planning camp.
5. The CEFCP content will hopefully be confirmed before the new leaders' term kicks off. I have confirmed with Yeki that I can contact the incoming Forum members and will be presenting at the new leaders training during recess about this. I will also be a part of completing the ResEd manuals and will assist in running a simulation of the manuals with the HCs so that they are educated and familiar with the content thereof.
6. The infographic for harassment and assault reporting process has been designed but needs to be shared with DSAf for confirmation and any corrections, and then can be shared with students
7. The Visualising transformation photoshoot will now only be the outgoing SRC members and will be done by the IT Hub. Individual pictures will be collated and made ready for the boardroom.
8. Along with my committee, I planned the Student Transformation Indaba which was well attended. The theme of the Indaba was the Transformative Student Experience. I had support from the transformation office. For the next indaba, having the SITC be part of the planning will assist in a lot of the logistics.

Budget

Budget & Reasoning

Transformation Budget				
Project	Description	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent	Amount Available
				<u>R6 720,07</u>
	Action4Inclusion Campaign			-R1 071,27
	Weekly summit transport	R3 340,00	R3 292,46	R47,54
	Table Mountain Transport	R876,00	R1 929,74	-R1 053,74
	Pniel Walkathon	R876,00	R941,07	-R65,07
	Be You Initiative			R320,00
	Student Card costs	R2 400,00	R2 080,00	R320,00
	Discretionary Funds- Transformation			R0,00
	Discretionary Funds	R1 000,00	R1 000,00	R0,00
	Member Expenses			R398,00
	Data Costs (4GB)	R1 312,00	R914,00	R398,00
	Pride Week			R1 295,50
	Transport	R400,00	R382,94	R17,06
	Give-aways	R11 758,51	R10 480,07	R1 278,44
	Student ITC Development			R0,00
	In-person Meetings	R540,00	R540,00	R0,00
	Student Transformation Indaba			R3 069,00
	Catering	R4 869,00	R1 800,00	R3 069,00
	Transformation Committee			R2 708,84
	Planning Weekend for DV	R3 000,00	R2 541,16	R458,84
	End of year Function for e	R2 250,00		R2 250,00
	Transformation Review programmes			R0,00
	Food and Drink	R316,00	R316,00	R0,00

Expenditure so far

The costs that were spent in my SRC term were:

1. Student ITC Development where I met up with various student leaders to discuss the possibility of reviving the SITC. These meetings were in coffee shops and restaurants and I did not have access to the SRC office as yet. If the incoming SRC is given access to the SRC office from the beginning of the term, there may not be a need for this expense.
2. The funds allocated for #Action4Inclusion were for transport. As the SRC member on the #A4I team, I budgeted for transport that would allow students to participate in the various hikes planned to raise funds for student fees issues.
3. The BeYou initiative is an initiative that allows students to change their titles on the university system to their correct gendered or ungendered titles. The money I availed for it was to pay

for their new student cards, as the system change will allow them to also receive new student cards.

4. My discretionary funds were spent on a team building event for my newly appointed transformation committee. We did not have an opportunity to bond and form strong team dynamics as the committee was appointed during the term, so the event would have been helpful in that regard. This is something my successor should include in their budgeting at the beginning of their term so that they do not have to use their discretionary funds on this.
5. My member expenses were budget for data costs so that I could attend online meetings and workshops when I could not be on campus and have access to the WiFi.
6. Myself and WAQE were planning on having at least one safe space a term for marginalised students, focusing on particular themes so the budget allocated is for refreshments and transport either for Tygerberg students to attend on Stellenbosch campus or for Stellenbosch students to attend on Tygerberg campus. This did not occur due to Covid restrictions.
7. The Transformation Committee is going to have an end of the year dinner to thank everyone for the hard work that they put into the committee as they do not get paid for being in the committee
8. My committee and I dedicated a weekend to thoroughly planning our term. These funds went to catering for the weekend.
9. Pride Week – this funded transport to Cape Town to buy the clothing items the SRC wore during the Pride March, as well as the cupcakes that were given away to students during the march.
10. There were funds left over in the pride week budget so I requested more funds from the SRC Exec to pay for expenses spent during Women’s Months. These expenses included; T-Shirts for a giveaway, gifts for the roundtable speakers, and thank-you vouchers for scribes and facilitators of the Student Transformation Indaba.

Recommendations to improve portfolio

1. The Transformation Officer should use the staff equivalents as soon and as often as possible. Having support from people in the Transformation Office, Student Affairs, Equality Unit, etc. is extremely helpful.
2. The planning for the newcomer transport initiative needs to take place thoroughly during the first SRC term. If the incoming SRC Transformation Officer wants to handle the admin for the initiative, then others from the team need to be doing the physical collections. This initiative should also be a lot more collaborative with the different houses’ VPs or just a representative.
3. Planning for BeYou also needs to be done the year prior, during the first SRC term. There needs to be communication between Registrar’s Division, SISS, and the IT Hub to ensure that everyone is on the same page about what needs to be done for the roll out of the changes to be done timeously.
4. When planning something like the transformation workshop I planned, one must communicate with Leadership Development, Vice Chairperson and Chairperson during the process so that one can have their support on making attendance compulsory for members. This will help as the instruction coming from them can be received differently versus if it comes from the Transformation Officer.
5. Try as much as possible to plan things well in advance. I know that is not always possible as sometimes things come up, but try to get heavy planning done to make things run easier.
6. That’s it from me for now tbh. Good luck Charlie.

Important Contacts

1. Programme Coordinator at Transformation Office – a new Coordinator is being appointed, be sure to find out their details once they have been appointed

2. Yeki Mosomothane – yekim@sun.ac.za – Multicultural Educator and Coordinator at Centre for Student Communities
3. Spurgeon Wilson – spurgeon@sun.ac.za – Programme Manager at Centre for Student Leadership Experiential Education and Citizenship
4. Tarien Jacobs – tarien@sun.ac.za – Personal Assistant to the Registrar
5. Ronel Retief – ronelretief@sun.ac.za - Registrar
6. Helene Nieuwoudt – hj@sun.ac.za – Business Specialist at Student Information System Support
7. Charl Davids – cdavids@sun.ac.za – Deputy Director and Head: Unit for Psychotherapeutic and Support Services
8. Munita Dunn-Coetzee – mdunn@sun.ac.za – Director: Centre for Student Counselling and Development
9. Nicolette van den Eijkel – Chief Director: Facilities Management – vdeijkel@sun.ac.za
10. Nicky Adams – Commercial Rentals and Promotions Officer – nadams@sun.ac.za
11. Brandon Como – Events and Security Operations Officer – como@sun.ac.za
12. Prof Deresh Ramjugernath – Deputy Vice Chancellor: Learning & Teaching – dereshr@sun.ac.za
13. Maggie Walters – mcw@sun.ac.za – Senior Planner: Development Planning & Design – Facilities Management
14. Danica Pedro – dpedro@sun.c.za – Sustainability Coordinator: Property Services – Facilities Management