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Stellenbosch SRC 2015/16

Term report 1

September 2015 – November 2015

Portfolio: Consciousness

Member: Khadija Bawa

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Date: 15 December



Table of Contents

General overview	4
Personal reflection	4
Portfolio overview	4
Portfolio responsibilities overview	4
Committee overview (i/a)	4
Portfolio Priorities	4
How can the portfolio be improved?	5
Responsibility overview.....	6
Responsibility 1: Transfer of information to Campus.....	6
Overview of responsibility.....	6
Desired outcomes of responsibility.....	6
Outcomes achieved with responsibility	6
How can the execution of this responsibility be improved?	6
Responsibility 2: Leadership Training and Conscientizing.....	6
Overview of responsibility.....	6
Desired outcomes of responsibility.....	6
Outcomes achieved with responsibility	7
How can the execution of this responsibility be improved?	7
Responsibility 3: Holding Committee responsible and involved	7
Overview of responsibility.....	7
Desired outcomes of responsibility.....	7
Outcomes achieved with responsibility	7
How can the execution of this responsibility be improved?	7
Responsibility 4: Ensuring relevance through partnerships	7
Overview of responsibility.....	7
Desired outcomes of responsibility.....	7
Outcomes achieved with responsibility	7
How can the execution of this responsibility be improved?	7
Supplementary Responsibilities	8
Overview of Supplementary Responsibilities	8
How can the execution of these responsibilities be improved?	8
Supportive Information	9
Relevant contact information	9

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Budgetary overview	9
Project overview (i/a).....	10
Project 1	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Project 2	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Project 3	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Overview of Term.....	14
Week 1 (14 – 20 September).....	14
Week 2 (21 – 27 September).....	14
Week 3 (28 – 3 October)	14
Week 4 (4 – 10 October)	14
Week 5 (11 – 17 October)	14
Week 6 (18 – 24 October)	14
Week 7 (25 – 31 October)	14
Addendums	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Addendum 1	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Addendum 2	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Addendum 3	Error! Bookmark not defined.



General overview

Personal reflection

The personal reflection of the portfolio is largely centred on the necessity for this portfolio to fulfil its vision and aims for the SRC term to come.

There is such a need on campus to bridge and educate on issues that are vital to student success that have not handled or tackled by the SRC. These issues include religious education, Mental health with specific emphasis on depression as well as privilege, in the social economic sense as well as the able bodied sense.

Portfolio overview

The personal experience with this portfolio has largely centred on of the working sub-committee. The Sub-committee has been filled with individuals who are committed to work as a team and represent varies constituencies specifically womxn, womxn of colour and LGBTQI individuals. This representation has provided for a vary of issues that initially was not considered by the portfolio and also seeks to collaborate with other partnerships and organisations on campus.

Portfolio responsibilities overview

The greatest responsibility for this portfolio to create sustainable platforms for discussion and to enable that leadership whether on campus or in houses are educated on how to make spaces more inclusive.

This portfolio cannot be effective if the planning of student climate is pre-empted, there needs to be flexibility to enable that platforms are created when issues are relevant and addressing issues and bodies when applicable to campus.

Committee overview (i/a)

The Portfolio for Consciousness has a subcommittee with five members and two assistances.

Secretary General: Amy Meyer

Sec Gen Personal Assistant: to be determined in the new year.

Finance: Tashreeqah Benjamin

Marketing: Liza Perold

Events Managers: Skhumbuzo Mazibuko

: Cher Petersen.

Events Assistance: Fikile Majola

Portfolio Priorities

Priorities are centred around those that have continuously been marginalised in Campus.

This includes groups of students such as those form a religious minority, those who are affected by the very able-bodied narrative of Stellenbosch, those that battle with mental health and educating those who benefit from their privilege.

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How can the portfolio be improved?

The Portfolio can be improved through more socially conscious individuals in the SRC that are willing to bridge their portfolios in collaboration with the Consciousness Portfolio.



Responsibility overview

Responsibility 1: Transfer of information to Campus

Overview of responsibility

This responsibility is the main focus of the projects that this portfolio plans. To transfer information to the leadership on campus so that they in turn transfer it to their HK's and mentors.

Additional to obvious leadership structures, there are also theme based events for campus as a whole, mainly on the rooiplein or general discussions.

Desired outcomes of responsibility

To make sure that awareness and education is transferred so that leaders can make informed decisions and they in turn can be held accountable for those decisions.

Outcomes achieved with responsibility

The complete lack of understanding and awareness residences and houses have to certain issues that are crucial to campus functioning well and inclusively. The aim of this portfolio is followed by the second responsibility. To utilize and transfer information, relay them to leadership structures and then have those leaders educate others and in turn create a more integrated environment.

How can the execution of this responsibility be improved?

This portfolio is aimed at overcoming ignorance and lack of understanding in leadership. There is improvement in creating a solid foundation of basic understanding and this can only be done by continuous sustainable learning platforms. The increase of these opportunities will overcome much of the ignorance in leadership in campus.

Responsibility 2: Leadership Training and Conscientizing.

Overview of responsibility

This responsibility ties in well with the first.

From the start of this portfolio there has been a great emphasis on awareness and education in specific relation to leadership.

Desired outcomes of responsibility

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To conscientize leadership.

Outcomes achieved with responsibility

The welcoming HK training has served as the perfect opportunity to conscientize leadership and transfer information on campus. The workshop programme serves as a baseline for the rest of the year as well as for future Critical Engagement Portfolio.

How can the execution of this responsibility be improved?

By creating more of these events and programmes and use structures within the university that will have similar conscientizing programmes such as SU Leads.

Responsibility 3: Holding Committee responsible and involved

Overview of responsibility

Be the head of the committee for Consciousness which include a Secretary General, 2 events coordinators, Finance Manager, Marketing Liason and Event Coordinator assistant.

Desired outcomes of responsibility

To make sure that everyone does what their roles specify to make sure that events run smoothly and are impactful as possible.
The cohesion and team dynamic will make working easier and objects to be achieved.

Outcomes achieved with responsibility

Cohesion and a unified vision and mission has been led to progressive meetings with partnerships as well as event based themes.

How can the execution of this responsibility be improved?

Regular meetings will validate and provide consistence to the portfolio and its vision and mission. Additionally team dynamics need to be discussed often so that role players are aware of their various roles and responsibilities.

Responsibility 4: Ensuring relevance through partnerships

Overview of responsibility

This responsibility is based on the improvement of conscientizing campus by using structures and societies that are already in place.

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Desired outcomes of responsibility

To make the SRC more relevant on campus
by working with different organisations, movements and societies on campus.

Outcomes achieved with responsibility

To make sure that consciousness gets as much exposure as possible but that it is also
intersectional as to include as many constituencies as possible.

How can the execution of this responsibility be improved?

Creating more partnerships on and around Campus.

Supplementary Responsibilities

Supplementary responsibilities are responsibilities that is day to day, but not major
enough to be defined individually.

Overview of Supplementary Responsibilities

1. Looking out for students by eradicating oppressive or discriminatory activities.
2. Making sure that SRC members are conscientized as well so that they can make informed decisions based on their respective portfolios and constituencies.
3. Initiating various workshops and projects to ensure problematic practices on campus that discriminate or offend are dealt with.

How can the execution of these responsibilities be improved?

Generally through a better link of communication and through trust building and
team work with structures like the SRC and especially amongst management.



Supportive Information

Relevant contact information

Prof. Wlm de Villiers (wkok@sun.ac.za)
Monica du Toit (mdt2@sun.ac.za)
OpenStellenbosch (openstellenbosch@gmail.com)
Reanne Olivier (Reanne@sun.ac.za)
Farai Mubaiwa (faraim@sun.ac.za)

Budgetary overview

Estimated amount. Still to be approved.

Critical Engagement-Concioussness

Expenses projected	
	R
Honorarium	R 13 074,00
Travel	R 2 000,00
Transport	R 2 000,00
Accomodation	R 2 000,00
Catering and Entertainment	R 3 000,00
Meeting with partners	R 3 000,00
Projects	R 22 500,00
Printing	R 500,00
Events	R 10 000,00
Venue	R 2 000,00
Speaker	R 10 000,00
Advertising/Marketing	R 2 000,00
Pamphlets/Brochures	R 2 000,00
TOTAL:	R 44 574,00

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Project overview (i/a)

Project 1- Welcoming Week HKs

Description of the Project

The Consciousness portfolio will along with the Women Empowerment and the Gender and Sexuality portfolio provide a welcoming programme where it will deal with conscientizing and creating awareness and safe spaces for individuals and students of leaders.

This will be enabled through four session per day for the Consciousness portfolio whereby issues central to campus such as disability, mental health with a focus on depression, religious education and white privilege will be prioritized.

How does this project fit into your vision?

This enables the working together of the critical engagement portfolios as well as the transformation portfolio of the SRC to allow for the deconstructing of the social event normative narrative of the welcoming week programme. It fits well into a transformative agenda and that of creating a space that is well educated and sensitive to marginalized and minority groups on campus.

Timeline of project

13 of January to 22 January

Welcoming Week Programme.

Desired outcomes

To educate and break down social barriers and provide spaces where residence leaders have been educated and trained to work with students from all back grounds and racial, cultural, religion and gender related issues.

Have this project been done in the past? If yes, how can you improve?

No.

Possible stakeholders in the project and possible partnership?

The Transformation Office; Prim Committee; House Committee; Dean of Students; Clusters; #OpenStellenbosch.

Project 2 – White Privilege Projects

Description of the Project

This project mainly involves educating students who come from privilege racial class to understand privilege to help create a greater understanding of racial inclusiveness.

How does this project fit into your vision?

Providing education and sustainable platforms for discourse especially focusing on leadership within houses.

Timeline of project

Largely orientated around welcoming.

Desired outcomes

Providing understanding and conceptualizing the current racial climate in South Africa and Stellenbosch.

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Have this project been done in the past? If yes, how can you improve?

No.

Possible stakeholders in the project and possible partnership?

White Privilege Project, Stellenbosch Chapter.

Project 3 – International Mother Tongue Day

Description of the Project

This event is more festive than the other serious climate events the portfolio has planned. This event aims to allow more inclusive celebratory spaces on campus. It will include an evening event where stories and poetry will be shared in different languages as well as personal accounts of the value mother tongues have to individuals. In addition there will be historical and origin of the language celebrated.

How does this project fit into your vision?

Providing more inclusive spaces.

Timeline of project

21 of February.

Desired outcomes

The enable the celebration of culture and language that transcends European narratives.

Have this project been done in the past? If yes, how can you improve?

No.

Possible stakeholders in the project and possible partnership?

SASCO, Inzync poetry, Dismaties (sign language o break able-bodied narratives).

Project 4 – Disability Day/ Week

Description of the Project

This event aims to educate the rest of campus that often takes for granted or does not fully conceptualise the privilege of being able-bodied. The event will vary from a day to week basis based on the amount of support and willingness from those effected by the lack of support on campus.

How does this project fit into your vision?

This project fits into the Consciousness Portfolio's vision perfectly as it created education through sustainable platforms as well as sheds lights on the lived experiences of a minority and greatly affected group on campus.

Timeline of project

The institutional day for South African Disability Day is the 3 of November to the 3 of December, this is problematic as the SRC 2015/2016 Term will be concluded by then and will be taken over by a new administration. As a result this event will be centred around the institutional World Health Day on the 7th of April.

Desired outcomes

An event of this nature requires sensitivity and assistance from those that have for years been affected by the able-bodied narrative on campus. The desired outcomes

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of this event is that those affected have a platform to inform leadership and campus at large about the experiences and possible improvements that can happen to improve the experience of all students on campus.

Have this project been done in the past? If yes, how can you improve?

No.

Possible stakeholders in the project and possible partnership?

The transformation office, Dismaties and the Disability Office as well the Transformation Portfolio.

Project 5 – Consciousness Week

Description of the Project

This project will be in collaboration with the Transformation Portfolio and entails the decolonising of the curricula. This will be done by looking at the structure and services provided by all faculties and changing the colonial narrative within faculties to promote education and conscientizing that is more African focused.

How does this project fit into your vision?

It provides for questioning the very white and Afrikaans institutional culture of Stellenbosch to one that is more inclusive and African based.

Timeline of project

1 week.

Desired outcomes

To provide the platform for students and faculties to grapple with discourse around African studies and bridging that with international education standards.

Have this project been done in the past? If yes, how can you improve?

No.

Possible stakeholders in the project and possible partnership?

The Transformation Office, The SRC Transformation portfolio, Dean of Students, Clusters, Deans Management Team, Vice-Rector and Teaching and Learning.

Project 6 – Israeli Apartheid Week

Description of the Project

Israeli Apartheid Week (IAW) is an international series of events that seeks to raise awareness about Israel's apartheid policies towards the Palestinians and to build support for the growing Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) campaign.

How does this project fit into your vision?

It contributes towards the intersectionality of decoloniality and reinforces the notion of a shared struggle amongst all people of the world. It speaks to international solidarity and social justice.

Timeline of project

2-8 March.

Desired outcomes

Building solidarity and creating awareness of the Palestinian issue. Additionally, it adds to the pressure of ensuring a successful BDS initiative.

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Have this project been done in the past? If yes, how can you improve?

No; not at Stellenbosch University.

Possible stakeholders in the project and possible partnership?

The Transformation Office; Dean of Students; Vice-Rector: Transformation; BDS; PSS Tygerberg; SASCO; MSA; fraternal structures.

Project 7 – Commemoration of Victims of the Slave Trade.

Description of the Project

South Africa has a very deep and hurtful connection to the slave trade and this is often overlooked even though it has had many intergenerational effects on the coloured people within the Western Cape specifically.

How does this project fit into your vision?

This event focused on creating awareness around issues that are often overlooked in the campus context. It will take a look at the effects of the slave trade on language and identity of the coloured people within the Western Cape. It will provide education on a marginalized group on campus.

Timeline of project

This institutional day is on the 25th of March but because that falls within the week vacation this event is set to happen once campus resumes.

Desired outcomes

To create awareness for marginalised groups especially focused on coloured people and also to provide a space and identity for this group on campus as well as a safe space to address intergenerational pain and the effects of slavery on the colour community today.

Have this project been done in the past? If yes, how can you improve?

N/A

Possible stakeholders in the project and possible partnership?

Cape Minstrels, Transformation Portfolio.

Project 8 – Women's Month

Description of the Project

To create a conscious discussion and awareness to combat rape culture and patriarchy.

How does this project fit into your vision?

This event is pivotal to the Critical Engagement portfolio, this includes the following portfolios mainly Womxn Empowerment, Gender Identity and Sexuality and Consciousness.

Timeline of project

August.

Desired outcomes

To create awareness and combat patriarchy and rape culture openly and actively.

Have this project been done in the past? If yes, how can you improve?

N/A

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Possible stakeholders in the project and possible partnership?

Womxn Empowerment and Gender identity and Sexuality.

Overview of Term

Give a weekly overview of the term

Week 1 (14 – 20 September)

Week 2 (21 – 27 September)

Week 3 (28 – 3 October)s

Week 4 (4 – 10 October)

The Consciousness Portfolio is a new managerial position meant to divide the Critical Engagement Portfolio into Consciousness, Womxn Empowerment and Gender Identity and Sexuality. The first week after my appointment the structural aspects of the SRC was introduced to the managers as well explaining the changes that the new SRC has already initiated including PGIO as a Manager position when it did not exist before.

Week 5 (11 – 17 October)

This soon followed choosing the main themes that this portfolio would be focusing on during its administration such as Disability Awareness, Religious Awareness, Mental Health Awareness and Privilege specifically White Privilege.

These themes were then accompanied with special emphasis on leadership and how to make leadership more aware of their privilege and how to enable them to be better leaders for the incoming first years.

Week 6 (18 – 24 October)

This times was used to work out the year plan of the portfolio and what the aim and vision of the Portfolio would entail.

During this time the last SRC meeting was also held where the Critical Engagement members (although not voting members) the managers added important perspectives in terms of representation and inclusiveness.

Week 7 (25 – 31 October)

I attended Dagbreeks Jaarsgesprek and this session provided invaluable insight into the concept of brotherhood and how planning the welcoming programme for the Hks would have to address the changing culture within residences in Stellenbosch.

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This time was used to plan the welcoming Hk training that would happen from the 13th to the 20th of January and would include facilitated sessions with the White Privilege Project, with Dismaties, with students and leaders that have been affected by Mental Health related issues and those students that are from a minority religious groups or beliefs on campus.

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