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# Stellenbosch SRC 2015/16

Term report 1

September 2015 – November 2015

Portfolio: Prim Committee Chair

Member: Wim Steyn

Contact email: wimsteyn@yahoo.com

Date: 11 January 2016



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## General overview

### Personal reflection

It is quite overwhelming to be the first SRC member to be elected, but luckily this means that you have a bit more time to settle into your portfolio. At first I thought it would be much less work than being Prim, but little did I know that it is expected of you to do a lot more. The first thing I realised as Chair of the committee is that the Stellenbosch of now is not the same Stellenbosch of six months ago and therefore I won't be able to follow the exact same steps my predecessor took – I knew I had to come up with new ideas, new ways of seeing things, ways of stretching the minds of the newly elected Prims. This could be quite difficult seeing that the leaders you're working with are often very influential people that are in turn difficult to influence – as Chair you should constantly learn and unlearn to ensure that you are indeed a leader in influence, knowledge and understanding.

### Portfolio overview

There is no guideline that sets out exactly what is expected of you. Even though this is exciting, it also means that you don't have anything that really serves as a guiding tool. Even though the Vice-Chair is responsible for either the residences or PSO's, the Chair is ultimately responsible for both. This task is made much easier if you have a good Vice-Chair. In my case I rarely need to have anything to do with the PSO's seeing that Inge is perfectly capable of handling that on her own. It is however very important to go to all the meetings and know exactly what's going on in PSO's to ensure that all meetings are relevant to all the Prims (both residences and PSO's).

### Portfolio responsibilities overview

As mentioned already, the Chair doesn't have set responsibilities, but this means that you have a lot of different responsibilities ranging from big to smaller issues. As Chair your first responsibility is to represent all the Residences and PSO's to the best of your ability wherever you go. Besides representing it is also expected of you to lead and

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to guide the prims. It is also very important to have a good relationship with the Prim. Even though it is difficult to have a personal relationship with every Prim, you have try your best to have a coffee with at least every Prim in your portfolio (Residence of PSO) before the end of your term. To summarise: at the end of the day your role is to ensure that all communities strive towards Vision 2030.

### Committee overview

Currently I'm serving on four committees. Firstly I chair the Prim Committee (PK) meeting that is held every second Tuesday. I also form part of the Executive Committee of the Prim Committee. Besides these two committees I was also elected to be part of the Executive Committee of the SRC. I'm also an ex officio member of the SHC (Student Housing Committee). I'm also an ex officio member of the SRC.

### Portfolio Priorities

My priorities are the same as my responsibilities. It is difficult to prioritise the responsibilities seeing that they're interlinked. It is important to balance all your responsibilities and to keep your end goal in mind.

### How can the portfolio be improved?

The Prim Committee has endless possibilities and potential, therefore it can be improved every year. What should be borne in mind is the fact that the Prim are the leaders of tomorrow and that time and money should be spent to develop their leadership abilities. The PK isn't there just to discuss administrative issues or to serve as a platform where short term problems can be solved. No, it is rather a get together of some of the best leaders on campus to critically discuss relevant topics and to develop together.

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The PK is also a very influential committee and that should not be underestimated. I would recommend that the PK send out statements more regularly, meet with management more often and demand change more urgently (when necessary).



# Responsibility

## overview

### **Responsibility 1: (Representing Residences)**

#### Overview of responsibility

I am responsible to represent all the Residences and PSO on campus to the best of my ability but with a specific focus on residences.

#### Desired outcomes of responsibility

To make sure that all the Prims of the Residences know what role they have to play in order to ensure that the students in their communities reach their full potential. Therefore “representing” should not be defined in the narrow sense, but should include “leading” as well.

#### Outcomes achieved with responsibility

The above mentioned outcome is not capable of being measured quarterly or even yearly, due to the nature of the outcome. But I do believe that the Prims are aware of the fact that they have to make their communities as inclusive and as integrated as possible in order for the students to feel welcome.

#### How can the execution of this responsibility be improved?

I think it should be borne in mind that Stellenbosch is constantly changing and that the trainings/sessions/discussions that was relevant and sufficient for one year, will not necessarily be adequate for the next. Therefore, it is of extreme importance to know exactly what is going on on campus and within the residences to ensure that relevant problems/issues are addressed and relevant solutions are found.

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## **Responsibility 2: (PK Meetings)**

### Overview of responsibility

Besides representing residences, I also chair all the Prim Committee meetings.

### Desired outcomes of responsibility

Seeing that the Stellenbosch of now and the Stellenbosch of six months ago totally differ from one another, the traditional outcomes of PK meetings had to be adjusted. Inge and I decided that we we have to focus on three things: the education of the prims (getting them informed), critical discussions (talking about issues without to better our understanding) and solution finding (solving problem or addressing issues in an innovative way).

### Outcomes achieved with responsibility

Thus far I really think we have achieved our outcomes with this responsibility. Please see the attached minutes of our meetings in this regard.

### How can the execution of this responsibility be improved?

I still think more time and money can be spent on training and critical discussions. The Prims are a very influential group of leaders and if they are well informed and equipped with the necessary skills they will have the ability to make a much bigger contribution to the University.

## **Supplementary Responsibilities**

### Overview of Supplementary Responsibilities

Besides representing the students within residences and PSO's and chairing PK (Prim Committee) meetings, I also have to responsibility to build relationships with the Prims. Besides this, I'm also part of the SRC and therefore have to make a contribution in the SRC meetings and play a supportive role within the SRC. I'm also part of the Executive Committee of both the SRC and the PK and with that comes the

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responsibility to always critically evaluate all situations and to solve problems creatively.

In this regards it is very important to know the difference between leadership and representing. In some instances, it is necessary to represent the students and sometimes it is necessary to lead the students even though it might seem that you are not representing the students. Leading often means that you have to apply the values of the University and strive towards the vision of the SRC, despite the fact that your actions might seem to in contrast with the plea of the students. It is also important to have an automatic bias towards marginalised students.

How can the execution of these responsibilities be improved?

The more informed you are regarding the issues relevant to the Stellenbosch and South African context, the better you will be able to lead and represent the students.

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# Supportive Information

## **Relevant contact information**

All the relevant contact details will be shared with my successor personally. Any other relevant contact information will be included in the PK Secretary's report.

## **Budgetary overview**

During the first quarter of my term we only spent money on ad hoc expenses. No major expenses occurred during the first term. The POPS (Prim, Vice Prim and Cluster Convenor) Camps was financed by SSG.

## **Project overview**

### Project 1

The only major project I had in the first quarter was organising the POPS Camp. This was a very successful camp where we as a team bonded. This year we changed the outcome of the programme a bit: the idea was that the Prims needed to realise that they have the ability to make a huge difference and that they have the ability to do so.

Please see the programme attached. I will discuss the whole idea behind the Camp in detail with my successor. All the relevant contact details and smaller details will also be included in the secretary's report.

More projects will follow in the upcoming quarter.

## **Overview of Term**

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It is a difficult task to give a overview of every week of my term. It is also important to note that I was the first SRC member to elected and therefore my term already started middle July. A typical week will include the following:

- A SRC meeting
- A SRC executive meeting
- Sometimes a PK executive meeting (Every second week)
- A meeting with Pieter Kloppers
- A Meeting with Leslie van Rooi
- A meeting with the Rector's Management Team (RMT). (Once a month).
- A PK Meeting (Every second week)
- A Meeting with the Cluster Convenors (Every second week)
- Cluster Prim Committee Meeting (Every second week)
- Task Team Meeting (Every second week)
- Other ad hoc meetings with management (Once a week)
- Meetings with Prims
- Meetings with SRC members
- Strategic Planning
- Lots of emails
- PSO Committee Meeting
- Student Housing Committee Meeting (Once a term)
- Meetings with committees (Ad Hoc) (Once a month)

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# Addendums

## **Addendum 1**

Please see the POPS Camp Document attached.

## **Addendum 2**

Please see all the Minutes of the PK meetings attached