



**Stellenbosch**

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**SRC**

Students' Representative Council  
Ibhunga elimele abafundi  
Studenteraad



## SRC TERM I REPORT

### PRIM COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON



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## Table of Contents

<a href="#">Constitutional Responsibilities</a> .....	3
<a href="#">Portfolio Overview</a> .....	3
<a href="#">Committees/Task Teams</a> .....	3
<a href="#">Term I Overview</a> .....	3

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## Margra Wevell – Prim Committee Chairperson – [marge@sun.ac.za](mailto:marge@sun.ac.za)



### Foreword

#### Dear Maties,

I have always believed that leading from a place of passion, enables you to persevere and fulfill your purpose. My Student Leadership journey has been extremely fulfilling thus far, but being appointed as Prim Committee Chairperson was definitely one of my most significant Matieland milestones.

*"A great leader's courage to fulfill his vision comes from passion, not position." - John C. Maxwell.*

Since being elected, my Vice-Chairperson and I have facilitated multiple Prim Committee Engagements. This includes the Newly Elected Prim Conference (NEPC), Vice-Prim Conference (VPC) and the constitutionally mandated Prim Committee Meetings.

We also had meetings with relevant stakeholders to establish relationships for the 2022/2023 leadership term and relayed relevant information between the Prim Committee and University Structures.

My Vice-Chairperson and I look forward to 2023 Welcoming Period and supporting Student Community Leadership to create an environment that enables student success!

#### *Frequently Asked Questions*

#### **Who sits on the Prim Committee?**

For those of you who don't know, the Prim Committee is a autonomous student representational structure who collectively represents 42 Student Communities, including 31 Undergraduate Residences and 11 Private Student Organisations (PSO).

#### **What is the purpose of the Prim Committee?**

*The Prim Committee* meets bi-weekly and serves as a forum of House Committee Leaders (Prims) to protect and further the interests of all students, by advising the SRC via the Prim Committee Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

## Constitutional Responsibilities

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*According to the Student Constitution, my constitutional responsibilities are the following:*

The Prim Committee Chairperson holds the responsibility of serving as a liaison between the SRC and the Prim Committee in terms of section 25 of the Student Constitution. I am responsible to actively promote the rights of students contained in Chapter 2 of the Student Constitution, and specifically the right, under Section 8 (I), to an enabling campus environment in which student success and academic excellence are encouraged and pursued.



*According to the Prim Committee Constitution, the Chairperson has the following responsibilities:*

- i) Serving as the Presiding officer at meetings of the Prim Committee and Executive Committee.
- ii) Being the Spokesperson of the Prim Committee.
- iii) Representing the interests of all Communities on the Students' Representative Council as an ex officio member.
- iv) Oversight over the activities of Communities, the Prim Committee, and the Executive Committee.
- v) Holding the Executive Committee accountable.
- vi) Assigning responsibilities and projects to the Executive Committee.
- vii) External correspondence on behalf of the Prim Committee to other Student Leadership Structures.
- viii) Responsible for oversight of the Prim Committee funds.
- ix) Representing the Prim Committee on various institutional bodies as determined by those structures.
- x) Being the Caretaker PSOs and fulfilling all the duties necessary for that representational capacity.
- xi) Ensuring that the Prim Committee fulfils its mandate.

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## Portfolio Overview

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The Prim Committee Chairperson is responsible for various activities to ensure the body functions effectively and adds value to student leaders and campus. These activities relate specifically to four pillars or University structures: The Prim Committee, Student Representative Council, Centre of Student Communities, and the Commuter Student Office.

### 1) The Student Representative Council (SRC)

The Prim Committee Chairperson in tandem with the Prim Committee Vice-Chairperson, Rudi Claassen, has a duty towards Student Communities to foster and preserve a relationship with the Student Representative Council (SRC).

When student concerns are raised in community spaces, the PSO Representative or Residence Representative can raise and discuss it at SRC meetings or specifically bring it under the attention of the SRC Executive Committee. The streamlined communication helps to ensure that the SRC is aware of developments in community spaces, especially those which result from the decisions of the SRC itself.

### 2) The Centre of Student Communities (CSC)

The Prim Committee Chairperson and Vice Chairperson regularly meet with the Director and Deputy Director of CSC respectively to discuss matters prevalent to Student Communities. We also work closely together on the development of Student Leaders with the annual Prim Conference and other important engagements.

### 3) The Commuter Student Office

As the designated Commuter Student Representative for 2022/2023, I am responsible to support the CSO Office with relevant tasks and duties relating to Private Student Organisations and Commuter Students. I attend bi-weekly meetings and work closely with the PSO Coordinators throughout the year to ensure that the PSO Prims and Communities are empowered to lead their communities.

## Committees/Task Teams

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### ***In my capacity as SRC Member:***

**Senate:** The Senate is accountable for the academic and research functions of the University, by the Council. The Senate may also be delegated or assigned other functions by the Council. The new SRC Representatives were introduced on 25 November 2022 at the Term 4 Senate Meeting.

**Institutional Forum:** The Institutional Forum advises Council on issues such as policies, conduct and management policies. The IF consists of 23 members, comprised of representatives from the governance and management, staff, students and community sectors. The Student Representatives were introduced to the committee on 14 October 2022.

### ***In my capacity as Prim Committee Chairperson:***

**Student Community Advisory Committee:** The SCAC, previously named the 'Student Housing Committee', serves as a platform where any matters concerning student communities are discussed. This committee chiefly oversees physical developmental affairs of student housing on campus. It is chaired by the Vice Rector of Teaching and Learning and is further comprised of the PK Chair and Vice-Chair, the Directors of Project Management, CSC, the Placement Office, as well as the Senior Directors of SU International, SunKom, Student Affairs and Student Access.

**Welcoming Committee:** Together with representatives of CSC, various faculties, and other student leadership structures, the committee is tasked with planning the welcoming period which include faculty programmes and the Danie Craven fuction. The purpose of the meetings is to bring all stakeholders on the same page with regards to the progress that has been made and what is expected of each structure.

**Maties T-Shirt Committee:** The served on the Maties T-Shirt Committee which was tasked with discussing and designing the 2023 Maties T-Shirt. All 42 Prims were included in the design on the T-Shirt and were given the opportunity to provide feedback.

## Term I Overview

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The Prim Committee Elections took place on 2 August 2022, our duties started shortly after. Although we spent a lot of time building relationships with the relevant stakeholders, administrative tasks and conveying important information to Student Leaders, I highlighted a few of our main activities this term:

### 1) Appointment of Prim Committee Executive

Shortly after being elected, Rudi Claassen and I appointed our Executive Committee Members, Margeaux Wassenaar as Administrative Officer and John van Niekerk as Financial Manager and Prim Development Convenor. This included portfolio handovers and creating term plans for 2022/2023.

### 2) Newly Elected Prim Conference / Vice Prim Conference

The Prim Committee Executive, alongside Pieter Kloppers from CSC, was responsible for planning, facilitating and executing the Newly Elected Prim Conference (3 days) and the Newly Elected Vice Prim Conference (2 days). We put a lot of time and effort to ensure the events were well communicated and that everyone had an opportunity to network and meet their fellow student leaders. *The highlights included a Wellness and Soccer session, Improvisation, and the Alumni Event at Die Stal.*

### 3) PSO Strategic Conference

Both my Vice-Chairperson and I attended the first Strategic Conference of the Leadership Term, as hosted by the Commuter Student Office. All the Prims and Vice-Prims of the 11 Private Student Organisations spent the weekend engaging with the CSO Staff. The sessions were focused on equipping them for the term ahead and giving them an opportunity to network and get to know one another.

### 4) Prim Committee Meetings

After our combined meeting with the previous Prim Committee, I chaired an additional two Prim Committee Meetings in the first term, along with John hosting two Prim Development Programme Sessions. The most prevalent Agenda Points in the first term included:

- *Corporate Communications and Marketing Division (CCMD) Blazer Mandate:* CCMD has decided to standardise all the blazers by changing the colour to Maroon with only the Stellenbosch University Logo in the name of uniformity. After engaging on the point at a Prim Committee meeting, the committee compiled a Memorandum formally rejecting the proposal, as the Student Communities would like to have their community emblem on their blazer. *This matter will be revisited in Term 2.*
- *Matie Shop Price Increases:* The Prim Committee identified a significant increase in the quoted prices for Welcoming 2023 Merchandise since the Matie Shop became a Private University Owned Company. After a meeting with Hein Swanepoel and Lara Cronje, we negotiated a 5% discount.

### 5) Annual Conversations

My Vice-Chairperson and I attended various Annual Conversations hosted by the Student Communities. We found the conversations very valuable, as it gave us a better understanding of how our Student Leaders were thinking about the term ahead.

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## Plans for Next Term

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I am looking forward to the second term and all it has to offer! The Welcoming period will be busy and eventful and will offer us an opportunity to support Student Leaders and hold them accountable to creating an space that fosters student success. Once the academic year starts, the Prim Committee Task Teams will focus on the mandates and work together to make a difference across campus.

### 1) Welcoming 2023

The SRC Roadshow Working Group will be mainly focused on introducing the SRC and the functions and purpose of the council with the Newcomers. I will be responsible for designing the presentation and liaising with the Student Leaders to confirm the details of the sessions. We have more than 25 Roadshows scheduled, and we are looking forward to presenting!

In my capacity as Prim Committee Chairperson, I will support Prims during Welcoming by reaching out, being present at events and focus on building relationships with our fellow Student Leaders. I hope to adequately represent Student Communities in the Monitor Advisory Committee and help Student Leaders reflect on the Monitor's report and the 2023 Welcoming Period.

### 2) Prim Committee Engagements

We look forward to hosting Prim Committee Meetings and ensuring that all matters relevant to Student Communities are addressed. The Prim Executive Committee look forward to hosting efficient meetings that add value and empower student leaders to address their concerns and become better leaders.

The Prim Committee always aims to invite relevant guests and stakeholders to Prim Committee meetings for meaningful engagement. This term we will also be following up with the Matie Shop, as well as the Corporate Communications and Marketing Division.

### 3) Student Wellness Task Team

I look forward to working alongside student leaders to address student wellness on Campus.