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# SRC 2022/23 TERM REPORT I: SENIOR PRIM COMMITTEE

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## Constitutional Responsibilities

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The Senior Prim Committee (SPC) has a constitutional mandate to actively promote the rights of students contained in CHAPTER 2 of the Student Constitution, and specifically the right to an enabling campus environment in which student success and academic excellence are encouraged and pursued.

The SPC's duties and powers are:

- (1) The Senior Prim Committee represents the interests of the residents of senior residences, in that capacity, at the SRC and the University management.
- (2) The Senior Prim Committee has the powers necessary for the performance of its duties.

The SPC this term exercised its mandate of representing senior students in various committee meetings and engagements which shall be elaborated on in the section dealing with committees and task teams.

## Portfolio Overview

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The Senior Prim Committee consists of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and the Prims, or their nominee, of each senior residence, as well as any other members that are provided for in the constitution of the Senior Prim Committee. Other members provided for in the SPC constitution are the Senior Living Spaces (SLS) cluster convenors and new structures for senior students residing outside of residences – Rubix.net, amaMaties.net and Wimbledon.Net.

## Committees/Task Teams

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### Student Communities Advisory Committee:

- The committee in the office of Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Learning and Teaching
- Advise DVC on ways to effect coordination between residences, clusters, and hub processes as they align with the University's strategic planning.
- Advise on clusters as an organizing principle for student life, academic affairs and delivery of services.



- Ensure that University infrastructure enables holistic integration and coordination of all student-related housing, cluster, and hub activities.
- Act as a communication agent and consultation forum for the various divisions involved in the Committee for matters relating to student communities and student housing.

### USKOF:

- The committee in the office of Senior Director: Student Affairs
- Dispensing financial support for students who seek to improve their co-curricular competencies
- Includes but is not limited to conferences, meetings, workshops, and non-academic exchanges

### SPC Constitution Committee:

- A committee chaired by SPC Chairperson
- Reviews all constitutions, rules or regulations of house committee constitutions.
- Reviews SPC Constitution every three years

## Term Overview

The first term of the SPC 2021/2022 included the first sitting once all the new student leaders were elected, except for the LLL representative and three .Net executive leaders. In this meeting, the newly elected Prims were orientated with the functioning and role of the SPC within Student Communities and Student Governance.

Planning commenced with the house committee training program at Mount Fleur. This was done with the help of the former leaders and other management teams as a steering committee. A survey was drafted and carried out with all newly elected house committee members outlining their past leadership experience and key areas in which they have identified the need for more information/training. The information was then compiled, and a weekend program was developed.

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The SPC training session was organized to lay out the themes such as time management, effective communication, and weaknesses in senior residences from outgoing Prims and to find out what incoming Prims expected from the work of the committee. This initiated the process of planning for the term and what needed to be achieved. Most of the issues brought up were institutional, training related and information on the role of senior residents as it is so vague with no guiding documents for incoming leadership which create an atmosphere of confusion and blurring on lines with senior leadership and Res Heads. Eugene Nell the outgoing SPC chairperson did a handover, where he clearly explain the role and duties of being the chairperson of SPC.

Regular meetings were also held with Noel Bekkers (SLS cluster coordinator), Gareth Cornelissen (Deputy director: Student Communities), SLS and the .Net executive leaders regarding both the functioning of the SPC as well the current state of senior residences. Further meetings with representatives of the SLS Cluster (Fallon Matthews and Elouise Van Wyk) and the .Net community representative (Tendani Tshauambea) were held after that to consider how we may combine Senior Prim and Rubix (.Net Community). This was then followed by the election of the Vice Chairperson of SPC, Qiniso Sithole.

In the elections of the Student Representation Council (SRC), I was the first Ex-officio to be elected (1 August 2022). I then had to attend the caucus of SRC and cast my vote. This was following up on Senior Student Leadership Development & Training [02/09/2022], and again on Senior Student Leadership Development & Training [16/09/2022]. The training was mandatory for newly elected student leaders. I also attended the strategic weekend. The Institutional Committee meeting.

SPC consultation with Tendani, where we discussed the relationship between the SPC and the dot Net communities that will be coordinating next year as well as how they can be of assistance to the SPC. SPC meeting: with Gareth, to discuss the introduction, SPC 2023 plans, finance cost point and general cooperation agreement between CSC and SLEEC

### [29 September, Rehearsal](#)

SRC Oath-taking, SRC Inauguration Ceremony 2022/23. The event paid tribute to the outgoing SRC 2021/22 for their amazing contribution to Stellenbosch University. A special mention that the keynote address for the event will be given by Mr Ainsley Moos, SU Council Chairperson on the topic: Institutional Change and the Role of the SRC **therein**. Including a welcoming address by our Rector and Vice-Chancellor, Prof Wim de Villiers.

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### [SRC camp](#)

18 November 2022-until the 19 of November. We participated (SRC) in a camp in Saldanha Bay (a military campus), where we had three days of interactions with other leaders from the Military campus. Numerous tasks were completed, and the Kampempe report was discussed.

This was followed by various leadership training 28/29 November- SU Registration Workshop, which is training about Re-admission/appeal and finance of 2023 (planning for 2023 academic). 2 December – senior institutional welcoming 2023, seniors Welcoming Program that is being put together by the .Net communities. Planning and finalising 2023 senior welcoming and discussing the proposed program with external stakeholders and potential facilitators.

### [14 December SPC Planning](#)

Teams Meeting with Noel and The Touch Company (Linda d'Holt-Hackner ) planning SPC welcoming/workshop for 2023. I attended a registration campaign session following the December break, and I later briefed the Senior Prim Committee on the SRC's registration strategy. Senior House Committee Leadership Development weekend. Planning involved sourcing quotes for catering, booking a venue, food, and meeting and discussing the proposed program with external stakeholders and potential facilitators.

The event was finalised and sent out to all Senior House Committees and Resident Heads before the event. The development program was carried out successfully with Senior Prim, and SLS Cluster, providing positive and constructive feedback at the following Senior Prim Committee discussion.

### [11 January 2023, SRC Roadshow meeting](#)

This is a part of the planning for welcome or how the SRC can help out when it comes to welcoming. The planning of the Transport Initiative and the format of the roadshow were on the agenda for this meeting. That is, dividing the tasks involved in running the roadshow. I and the SRC Chairperson was in charge of the Transportation Initiative. This initiative involves driving to various ports of arrival and offering free transportation to newcomers to the Stellenbosch Campus. For a variety of reasons, the initiative was a failure. The first reason is a lack of funding. The planning was inadequate. The goal was to work with the CSC and help students with transportation, much like the previous SRC did. The CSC



emphasized the incidents that occurred in the 2022 transportation project when we presented the concept for the initiative to them. One of the strategies was to hire student drivers rather than hiring both the transport and the drivers to reduce costs, which they vehemently disagreed with. Not disseminating the sign-up link was another aspect that contributed to the initiative's failure. Another cause it failed to function was the sign-up link's delayed release. Also, because there wasn't enough student interest (not enough students signed up), we were unable to reserve vehicles for the pick-up of just two or three students.

Moreover, 16 January 2023, Senior Living Space- Convener meeting with Mr Noel Bekker, Fallon, Elouise, Qiniso and I) finalizing the senior welcoming or training.

### 20 January 2023- The Touch Company-Hosting (Workshop)

Linda d'Holt-Hackner facilitated the session. *The workshop will take place at Katjeepering Restaurant in the Botanical Gardens, and I commenced from 9 am to 1 pm.* Where they have learnt the communication and hosting abilities required for leadership roles through the work we must do. Every student (SLS) was urged to take advantage of this chance.

### 23 January, Senior Institutional Welcoming Check-in

facilitated by Jethro with external stakeholders and potential facilitators. to finalize the senior and postgraduate welcoming. Further, I along with several members of the Senior Prim Committee participated in the first aid training. All members of the SPC passed and obtained the First Aid certificate.

### 24 January- SLS cluster check-in,

Finalising senior prim training. On that day at 14hoo Refresher Session: SU Registration was held online, to discuss the registration, readmission, accommodation, postgraduate etc, discussing the proposed program with external stakeholders and potential facilitators.

### 31 January, SLS ResED Coordinators-Experiential Outing

31 January 2023- Observatory: SLS Cluster Leadership [ staff and Student Leaders]- Experiential outing on the 31st of January 2023 (Tuesday) to Observatory, Cape Town. It is shortly before the intense welcoming period and to foster tacit support and networking for our staff and a student leader.

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## [2 February the Dream Walk](#)

The "Dream Walk" is a program that marks the beginning of many newcomers' SU travels by giving them cards on which to put their personal goals. Then, along the dream walk route, these cards are left at various locations, including Victoria Street. The resident that brings the most newcomers to the Dream Walk.

## [4 February Net Soiree](#)

the face-to-face event facilitated by Tendani, the event was centred on the senior welcoming program, which was aimed to utilise this gathering to build awareness, momentum and understanding of the role and purpose of the .Net community within Stellenbosch University – that is, integrating (re-integrating) senior students into the Stellenbosch University (SU) ecosystem by serving, supporting and equipping individuals with the necessities required for the successful completion of their studies. Furthermore, it aims to provide our community members with a better sense of the amazing work done by key role players, such as yourself, to support senior students and better the student experience SU strives for.

## [7 February 2023 – Bicycle tour \(senior cluster/SLS\)](#)

The suggested cycling tour is an excellent chance to see many of Stellenbosch's sights while being accompanied by an expert tour guide who will provide us with in-depth knowledge of the various attractions.

## [8 February -SPC motivational talk](#)

SLS and SPC motivational talk, as we enter the new academic year, it is very important we start on a strong note, and as such, the cluster will be having a motivational talk that will focus on how to be intentional with yourself/academics in 2023. The Motivational speaker was Yanga Keva.

## [10 February-the Wine farm experience with the Son of the Soil foundation](#)

10 February SPC attending the Wine farm experience with the Son of the Soil foundation will be taking place at Simonsig this Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

The Wine Farm Experience, the final component of our Cluster Day program, concludes our welcoming week. This event, which will take place at one of Stellenbosch's most prestigious wine farms, aims to wrap up our welcome week with style and vigour and introduce SLS students to the Sun of the Soil foundation, one of our key stakeholders this year. These gathering promises to be full of fun, relaxation, and interesting conversations.





General duties in the term included chairing Senior Prim Committee meetings throughout the term and regularly engaging with the Senior Living Spaces Cluster Coordinator and Resident Heads regarding the takeaways from these meetings. Further, I attended all SRC meetings possible and participated in the various institutional committees as outlined under Committees/Task Teams

## Institutional Committees

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Student fees committee- this meeting happens at least twice a year according to the approved budget time frame. The student fees committee meeting of 28 September 2022 (Microsoft teams) to discuss the approved student fees of 2023. The suggested rate for the January 2024 charge for the December 2023 cohort, represents an (8.0%) increase over the rate for January 2023. The agenda was based on Advice given to the Finance Committee regarding the imposition of student fees, study-related extra fees, and SU housing fees, done for both overhead and particular contexts. Advice to the Finance Committee concerning any changes to the SU's tuition, additional costs for studies, student administration fees, and housing expenses. To ensure that SU operates as an academic institution of excellence, overheads advise the Finance Committee concerning student fee structures and procedures. I also attended the Fees Increment presentation on 7/10/2022 and the November Student Communities Advisory Committee Meeting.

- Honorary Degrees Committee -N/A
- Student Affairs Selection Committee- N/A

## Other Committees

- Student Communities Advisory Committee
- Senior Prim Committee Constitutional Review Committee

## Budget Usage

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SPC projects that were funded in the first term. Only three SPC members attended the Gathering 2020: Daily Maverick at Cape Town. Which transport and lunch cost was paid out of SPC cost point. The touch Company workshop (cost for speaker, food and drinks), Experiential learning, Motivational talk, and the wine farm experience.

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## Recommendations

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Some of the recommendations include welcoming needs to involve more cooperation between residences and include a required element that deals with reoccurring residence-based problems. The SLS Cluster will benefit from increased cooperation as it works to ensure synergy. To also encourage participation from leaders.

An organized plan is required for any transportation initiative. not to merely approach one division for help (perhaps finance). If one division is unable to help, the leaders must authorize another division and convince them of the necessity of the initiative.

### Plans for next term.

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In the next term the following projects will take place:

1. Ensuring that the Senior Prim Committee's Constitution Committee attends constitutional literacy training presented by Student Court.
2. Monitoring the review of the Senior Prim Committee Constitution.
3. Monitoring the progress of the #matieshavedrive project.
4. Initial succession planning which includes the development of an improved House Committee Leadership Development program.
5. Addition of Senior Prim Committee events onto the Centre for Student Communities Calendar for 2022.