



STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL
IBHUNGA ELIMELE ABAFUNDI
STUDENTERAAD



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SRC 2021/22 TERMREPORT I POLICY OFFICER

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Students' Representative Council
Third Floor, Neelsie Student Centre
Private Bag XI, Matieland, 7602
Tel: +27 21 808 2757 | Email: sr@sun.ac.za



PHILIP VISAGE – POLICY OFFICER – PVISAGE@SUN.AC.ZA

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Constitutional Responsibilities

As the SRC Policy Officer my constitutional responsibilities can be split between the duties imposed on me as an SRC member, a member of the SRC Executive Committee and my portfolio specific duties.

As an SRC Member, sections 27 and 32 impose the prevalent duties. Accordingly, I must always act in the best interest of students and to actively promote their constitutionally provided rights. Other specific duties include to represent students on institutional committees, to evaluate and give input on institutional policies, to facilitate projects to the benefit of students and finally to formulate policy in order for the SRC to perform their duties effectively. Section 32 further obligates me to submit a termly report of all my activities during the academic term to the Secretary. Finally, according to section 44 I have to attend an SRC meeting every two weeks during the academic term.

As an Executive Committee member, section 41 and 42 imposes additional obligations. This includes setting the agenda for SRC meetings, managing the day-to-day activities of the SRC, compiling the SRC budget and deciding on portfolio allocations. Finally, I am required to attend weekly meetings.

As the Policy Officer I am constitutionally mandated to ensure SRC policies are formulated correctly and to assist other members in evaluating institutional policies. I am further required to assist the SRC with interpretations of the Student Constitution and other policies where it is requested. Finally I am mandated to safe-keep all student-related constitutions.



Portfolio Overview

The Policy Offer portfolio is responsible for ensuring the SRC deals with policies appropriately. This includes:

- Ensuring SRC policies are formulated in terms of the Student Constitution
- Assisting other members evaluating institutional policies
- Developing new SRC policies where needed
- Curating and supporting SRC policymaking
- Reviewing institutional policies
- Facilitating training on policymaking to members

Further duties of this portfolio revolve around the accessibility of existing policies. Exact duties include:

- Developing accessible processes for students to find institutional and student policies
- Safekeeping and creating a repository of all student-related constitutions



Committees/Task Teams

Council

Refer to Vice-chairperson term report I

Council Language Committee

Refer to Vice-chairperson term report I

Institutional Forum

Refer to Vice-chairperson term report I

Student Achievement Committee

Refer to Vice-chairperson term report I

Student Parliament Rules Task Team

In accordance with section 129(1)(c) of the Student Constitution, the SRC must convene a task team to draft the rules for the newly structured student parliament. As Policy Officer I have convened this Task Team. The objectives of the task team are to draft a Constitution for Student Parliament and rules for the Student Imbizo and Student Assembly. The task team will attempt to conclude its duties within the first academic term of 2022. As of yet only the task team mandate has been created and members been convened. The first meeting is set to take place after the registration period comes to an end.

RegisterAll Task Team

Refer to Vice-chairperson term report I



Term Overview

My first duty as Policy officer entailed reviewing policies submitted by the Treasurer and Transformation Officer before it was approved by the SRC.

Subsequently, my next duty entailed a policy workshop that was presented at the SRC Camp. I presented what policies are and how it is used to govern our Institution. I further set out the process for formulating SRC policy as well as how institutional policies are drafted and adopted. I delved a bit into the structure of the Student Constitution and the most prevalent institutional policies.

As is required by the new student constitution, I have to create a repository of student related constitutions. I initiated this process by drafting a memo to all the ex officio structures of the SRC to mandate their constituent structures to provide us with their constitutions. To this date I have received the majority of communities and all faculty committee constitutions. I am however still awaiting the Stellenbosch society constitutions from the Societies' Council. I have already started the process of creating a master list of all structures and marked off which constitutions is in my possession as well as their versions. Upon receiving and classifying the societies' constitutions, I will commence with creating a virtual and physical repository of constitutions.

The Student Disciplinary Code provides that the SRC nominate student representatives to act as panellists for the Central Disciplinary Committee. After making the SRC aware of this obligation, we delegated the role to the Academic Affairs Council to assist with the vetting process. Upon conclusion of their duties, a list was shared with me which I delivered to the Centre for Student Discipline as the SRC's nominees. Given that there were concerns last year of other students also being used as panellists, our communication clearly stipulated that these names were to be the only students serving on the panels.

In my capacity as policy interpreter, I hosted a discussion with the SRC on the Institution's draft vaccine mandate. I explained and presented how the mandate in its current form would function and highlighted the problems that I have identified thus far. In my explaining of the functioning, members could easily provide their feedback on what other changes we recommend. I then drafted a memo from the SRC that combined all the feedback from this discussion and sent it to the drafter of the mandate as the SRC's official stance and feedback to the mandate.

The office of Student Governance underwent a process to review the election process of the student leaders at SU. They drafted a report thereon and submitted it to the SRC. In my capacity as policy officer, I shared it with the team and invited feedback. None was received. I therefore drafted my edits and an additional document for SRC recommendations and submitted that to Student Governance as our feedback on elections.

An incident at Tygerberg campus gave rise to a policy concern with regards to residence placement. After all the documents and facts were shared with me, on their request I drafted an opinion to the TSR Chairperson on my understanding of the policy and the failures of the relevant staff member in complying



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with the policy. My role was merely advisory to the situation and therefore I do not know what the outcome was after I shared this report with my colleague.

General duties throughout the term included providing ad hoc interpretations of the Student Constitution and other policies as it is requested of me. A failure on my part took place in this regard where I was not alert to the change with regards to official internal communication as regulated by the new language policy. All internal communication must be in all three languages and I only remembered that change after we had already sent out a mass mailer to students in only English.

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Budget Usage

Given that the term has been spent mostly in preparatory stages of the repository, no funds have yet been expended for this portfolio.

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Plans for next term

Next term will be spent working on the following projects:

1. Finalising the Constitutional repository
 - a. Uploading and structuring the constitutions on the SRC's website
 - b. Printing and having a hard-copy version of each constitution in the SRC's office
2. Assisting Ex-officio structures with creating their constitutional review committees
3. Providing a training session to SRC members on policymaking
4. Interpreting and formulating policy as the situation to do so arises