



STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL
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SRC 2021/22 TERM REPORT I TYGERBERG STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

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VHUDI RAVHUTSI – TSRC CHAIRPERSON – TSRCHAIR@SUN.AC.ZA

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Constitutional Responsibilities

As a general member of the Students' Representative Council, there is a minimum standard of expectation to comply with and contribute towards the Students' Representative Council fulfilling its core functions as per the Student Constitution. These include; acting in the best interest of students and actively promoting students' rights under CHAPTER 2, representing students at The University Council, The Senate, The Institutional Forum, other committees, structures, and functionaries of the University, National and international student structures, evaluating the University policy and giving input in the formulation thereof, formulating and maintaining policy to ensure that the SRC performs its functions and duties effectively, facilitating projects and initiatives to the benefit of students, and informing students continuously, and obtaining feedback, about its activities.

Further to this, I am expected to comply with the provisions of the Student Constitution and the policies and regulations of the SRC, attend meetings, submit a complete report regarding my representative responsibilities and other activities to the Secretary after every academic term, not later than one (1) week after the start of the following term, present the position of the SRC at other bodies and consult the SRC on any important decisions to be taken by said bodies, and comply with the Code of Conduct adopted by the SRC.

As a member of the Executive Committee, I am expected to aid the Executive committee to fulfil its duties and powers which include setting the agenda for SRC meetings, managing the day-to-day matters of the SRC, excluding any power or duty granted to the SRC by the Student Constitution, fulfilling any duty that the SRC delegates to it, fulfilling any other function that the Student Constitution assigns to it, compiling and amending thereafter, the SRC budget, making important decisions in urgent cases where it is not practically feasible to convene the SRC, deciding on the portfolio allocation of the SRC, excluding the compulsory portfolios, and appointing the Election Commissioners in terms of s18(6) of the Student Constitution.

As the Chairperson of the Tygerberg Student Representative Council, I am required to represent the interests of all students of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, in my capacity, at the SRC and the University management, and advise the SRC to actively promote the rights of students of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences contained in CHAPTER 2, and strive to protect and further the interests of all students.



Portfolio Overview

The Tygerberg Student Representative Council Chairperson serves as the highest institutionalized representative of the Tygerberg Student body. The TSRC Chairperson, as the CEO of the Tygerberg Student Representative Council, chairs the executive committee of the TSRC. The TSRC chairperson also forms part of the Stellenbosch Student Representative Council as an ex-officio member.

In my capacity as TSRC Chairperson, I serve on the FMHS Faculty Board, the Dean's Advisory Committee on Transformation (DACT), Strategic Committee on Recruitment, Selection and Admission (SCORSA), and the Advisory committee for Tygerberg Student affairs (ACTSA). I also represent the needs of the Tygerberg students at Dean's Management Team (DMT) and Rectorate meetings.

As part of my year plan, my portfolio objectives include to:

- Amplify the voice of Tygerberg Students across the institution by working closely with the SRC, Dean's Management Team (DMT), and Rectorate.
- Empower all members of the TSRC to infiltrate spaces within the university's management and to increase their circle of influence in order to advocate for Tygerberg Students to the best of their capability.
- Improve the visibility of the TSRC on campus by working with other student leadership bodies as well as non-positional leaders.
- Promote transparent and accountable governance.
- Improve the relationship between the SRC and the TSR.
- Be a proponent of social justice on campus as well as within my circle of influence in society at large

According to the SRC Strategic Planning document, it is expected of the Tygerberg Student Representative Council to:

- Ensure that the SRC's proposed decisions are informed on the Tygerberg campus context.
- Ensure that there is coordination between portfolio holders on the TSR and SRC.
- Delegate matters to the Tygerberg campus leadership structures where applicable.
- Ensure that Tygerberg campus issues reach the SRC.
- Ensure that SRC decisions and actions are implemented and developed on the Tygerberg campus.
- Be responsible for the SRC's visibility on the Tygerberg campus

Based on previous reports, it is evident that the TSRC Chairperson is pivotal in coordinating coherence between the issues of the SRC and TSRC. It is through the TSRC Chairperson that the SRC receives issues of Tygerberg students, is informed of the Tygerberg context in decision-making, decisions of the SRC are translated down to the leadership network on Tygerberg, these decisions are implemented efficiently, and that feedback is relayed back to the SRC. According to previous reports, agreement and



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understanding between the SRC and the TSRC Chairperson has always been delicate and needs to be cultivated and nurtured as far as possible for the betterment of the student body.

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Committees/Task Teams

Committees

1. Dean's Advisory Committee on Transformation (DACT)
 - FMHS's DACT was established to build an institutional culture that welcomes, develops, and supports a diverse body of students and staff. The committee meets quarterly and has had discussions on a range of topics. One of the tangible outflows of these discussions was the display of the preamble to the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa in English, Afrikaans, and isiXhosa in the foyer between the Clinical and Education Buildings on Tygerberg Campus.
 - The team met to discuss issues including the future of Equality Champions of FMHS, terms of reference and report of the Faculty Charter Task Team, interim guideline for the use of social media by Health Science students in the FMHS as approved by Faculty Board, launch of an Anti-Cyberbullying campaign by The Equality Unit and DSAf office, an institutional policy being formulated by SU Communications Policy task team, new Student Disciplinary Code and the Policy on unfair discrimination, Visual Redress Task Team proposal which includes the installation of a wall of remembrance to commemorate people who passed away during the time of the Covid19 pandemic, and Anti- Gender Based Violence Task Team report.

2. Strategic Committee on Recruitment, Selection and Admission (SCORSA)
 - The establishment of this strategic recruitment, selection, and admission committee for the FMHS was proposed to provide overall direction for selection and admission to the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences. This includes developing undergraduate and postgraduate minimum admission requirements and guidelines for selection. That takes into account the approved Admissions Policy of the University, enrolment planning as well as diversity targets, amongst others. It is guided by a number of principles which could include enrolment planning in terms of DHET and partner employers, requirements of the Admissions Policy of Stellenbosch University, Faculty strategic direction in terms of driving both diversity and transformation, increasing access i.e. reviewing the extended degree programmes, as well as the numbers of students required in terms of the HPCSA and other statutory bodies and Human Resources for Health (HRH) strategies
 - Matters of this committee are confidential. Some mentionable issues discussed when this committee met are updates to the 2023-intake selection guidelines, progress with the implementation of the Situational Judgement Test (SJT) for 2022 intake, piloting the SJTs with category B2 and B3 applicants, Undergraduate selection audit, and Undergraduate selection and registration statistics: BI Selections Statistics.



3. Advisory committee for Tygerberg Student affairs (ACTSA)

- This committee was established to advise and inform the function and operation of the Tygerberg Student Affairs. It serves to gather and align student input and ensure throughput of this input to decision-making of Tygerberg Student Affairs.
- The team met to discuss Matters raised by faculty programme representatives (Nursing & Midwifery, SLHT, Dietetics, MBChB, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy), Centre for Student Leadership, Experiential Education and Citizenship's Leadership Development online training and offerings, issues raised by the TSR, TPSC, TAAC, TSC, and TSP, The impact of COVID in the residences, Centre for Student Counselling & Development (Developments and trends during lockdown, Food security, Mental Health Policy development and Substance Abuse Policy development, Campus/Res Life and Culture Review, transformation charter, murals and launch, and Gender-based violence.

4. Welcoming Committee (FMHS and SU)

- This committee was established to plan and organize the welcoming program.
- All meetings served to develop the welcoming program and coordinate coherence between the SU welcoming program, FMHS Welcoming program and the residences welcoming programs.

5. Honorary Degrees Nomination Committee

- I was nominated to this committee by the SRC. This committee is responsible for advertising and generating nominations for Honorary Doctorates that will be presented to Senate and Council for deliberation.
- Meetings has not yet taken place

6. SAC Selections Committee

- I was nominated to this committee by the SRC. It serves as a committee assisting in awarding Rectors Awards in Excellence to students.
- Meetings has not yet taken place

Task Teams

1. SRC Task Team for creating Student Parliament Rules

- This Task Team was established to develop a constitution for Student Parliament, rules for the Student Assembly and Student Imbizo, and submit the constitution and both sets of rules to Student Court for approval.
- This task team is still to meet.



Term Overview

Handover, team construction and visionaries

- In the month of September, I met with Ms Kristin Arends, the outgoing TSRC Chairperson, to reasonably lay out the skeleton of the position. Some topics covered were the CUBL, RegisterAll campaign, SunSuccess, Institutional committees, and the TSRC Office proposal. This helped in giving me perspective for the direction of the team in the prospective term ahead. I convened the TSRC Executive to strategically allocate TSRC members into different portfolios and institutional committees and set the precedence for throughput of TSRC agenda and relaying of feedback back to the team.
- I convened the TSRC Executive to initiate the process of casting the vision and mission for the term, mandate, priority points, focus issues we will be focusing on. This ran through various mini strategic planning sessions with the TSRC Exec and one big session with the rest of the team at SU Launch Lab in October, supplemented by Student Governance training sessions. As part of an initiative to be as successful as possible, I created a task board for TSRC members to use so I can coordinate and help the team continuously where necessary.
- In the month of November, I did two (2) introductory videos, one for the Online Onboarding program and one for the general TSU. In these videos, I welcome prospective first years and expound on the functioning of the TSRC, and introduce the TSRC together with elaborating the vision and mission respectively. I convened the TSRC Executive to work on the TSRC Budget for the term. This was followed by another session in December and the final document required to be made available to the TSU with the vision and mission, full portfolio list, final budget and grand year plan will be concluded in the New Year.
- Handover, team construction, and visionaries was done to transfer power from the past term to current term and determine the precedence for the term. This is necessary to define the direction, preparedness and efficacy of the team.
- The vision highlights an empowering and transformative student experience, this is only possible with prior preparation and setting the mood for the term to enable such an environment. To promote transparent and accountable governance, the preparation of the Plan document was necessary and deserved warranted attention.
- **Relevant dates:** Handover was started and completed on the 12th of September 2021, Team Construction was started and completed on the 14th of September 2021, and Visionaries were started on the 20th of September 2021 and completed on the 7th of January 2022, the introductory videos were started on the 4th of November and completed on the 15th of November 2021.
- **What went wrong:** Majority of the challenges with team construction and visionaries come from lack of intrinsic buy-in and passion. I faced a lot of subsequent problems because this was not yet defined and it affected team dynamics. This manifested as apathy, lack of attendance and zeal from members. It was a bit difficult matching the finances of the TSRC with the vision and mission, and allocating funds accordingly to achieve said vision and mission.
- **What went well:** Persistence was key, team dynamics require a lot of patience and everything started falling into place when people started understanding their roles and functioning of the TSRC after we had our strategic camp and spent a few operational days in office. Continuous involvement and engagement with TSRC members as we approved the different portfolio budgets helped mitigate that difficulty and rid of the discrepancy.

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- **Overall feedback of how event or activity panned out:** Approaching team construction necessitated strategy, it got overwhelming at some point when things were not going according to plan but it was a joy piecing the puzzle together to form a complete team. Taking the videos was a fun time, a lot of bloopers were made and it got frustrating at some point but it was amazing. Team construction and budgeting had its ups and downs, with others attaching imposed value on their budget cuts to their portfolios. A lot of emotional intelligence was required to manage the team dynamics after this.
- **Project feasibility:** Handover, team construction and visionaries are the backbone of a good term. This should be well-coordinated and handled with grace because it makes or breaks the term. No budget is required for this. The introductory videos were absorbed under Strategic Communication in the current cost point.

SRC Executive and General Meetings

- The SRC Executive met every Monday, and the general council met every Wednesday according to agenda points submitted, notwithstanding special circumstances. As part of the vision to increase the SRC visibility on Tygerberg campus, we agreed to hold the Executive meetings on Tygerberg every other week and the general council meetings once every term. This mind-set made it possible for us to mandate intrinsic consideration of Tygerberg campus in the planning and execution of each SRC portfolio. In September, we invested time in strategic planning of the SRC; team construction and allocation of SRC members to portfolios and institutional committees, mandate-setting, vision and mission casting, general SRC projects and improvements, etc. in SRC Executive meetings. This process was also complemented by the Student Governance training sessions. In October, we initiated the discussions on creating registration and welcoming work streams to attack said period this continued through the months and will be concluded after the registration period. Parallel to this, we engaged on adoption of a transformation Framework in SRC meetings, feedback from the Risk Assessment Forum informing the Mandatory vaccination rule that the SRC Chairperson, myself and the PC Chair sat on.
- These meetings made it possible for us to direct the functioning of the SRC and I took this opportunity to inform the SRC of the Tygerberg perspective for consideration in this functioning intrinsically and not as an after-thought.
- Intentional visibility of the SRC on Tygerberg campus aligns with the vision of the TSRC. We have strived and managed to uphold a healthy and working relationship between the TSRC and the SRC which positively impacts on the livelihood of the TSU, fosters inclusion of Tygerberg at the greater University level and promotes accountability of the SRC to the TSU.
- **Relevant dates:** SRC Executive meetings occurred every Monday from the 15th of September 2021 until the exam period, notwithstanding special circumstances, and continues in the New Year. SRC General Meetings occurred every Wednesday from the 10th of October 2021 until the exam period, notwithstanding special circumstances, and continues in the New Year
- **What went wrong:** It is not easy to be travelling to Stellenbosch every Monday and Wednesday after a workday for meetings. A different campus means an entirely different context so it necessitated a learning curve to adapt to the functioning of Stellenbosch campus so I could apply myself in addition to my Tygerberg experience in order to marry the two.



- **What went well:** Tygerberg campus was successfully considered in the planning and execution of each portfolio and properly budgeted for. The relationship between the SRC and TSRC has drastically improved and this has made a significant impact for the benefit of the TSU and the extended student body as a whole.
- **Overall feedback of how event or activity panned out:** I have enjoyed this SRC journey, it is packed with a lot of learning and involvement in key issues shaping the student experience. I really see the impact it has made on the relationship between the two representative student bodies and it continues to be carry potential for an amazing working environment for the benefit of the student. I think this is also well-received by the members of the two representative bodies with a lot of collaboration between them occurring and being enabled.
- **Project feasibility:** I am actually of the opinion that the TSRC should have a set seat on the SRC Executive based on the amount of successes I have seen just by being the SRC Executive. It allows for a two-way street feedback loop between the bodies and the benefits are vivid. The Tygerberg context is clearly understood and the SRC benefits with direction on how to apply themselves for the Tygerberg Student. This makes it possible for the SRC to fully achieve their mandate. No budget is required, travelling costs are covered by the SRC.

TSRC Office proposal

- I drafted a proposal that was sent to Student Governance, DSAF and subsequently the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching and learning, following his visit to Tygerberg Campus. The proposal detailed the plans for the TSRC Office renovations, both short-term and long-term. This was followed by submission of a working document highlighting some of the key issues we are facing like the Osler Hub, ER24 services, Safety and security para-campus, etc. We engaged on these matters continuously and some of things have come to fruition, like short-term renovation plans of the TSRC office.
- The purpose of this initiative was to provide TSRC members with an optimum working environment to enable collaboration amongst themselves and also other stakeholders like the SRC for maximal efficiency. This in turn, will benefit the student as TSRC members will be able to deliver quality student service.
- The TSRC aims to approach issues in a solutions-based way, we engaged intellectually with all relevant stakeholders offering pertinent solutions along every step which promotes the TSRC vision. We communicated this with the TSU to foster transparency and accountability.
- **Key players:** Prof Deresh Ramjugernath (dereshr@sun.ac.za) DVC: Teaching and Learning – Primary custodian of working document, Dr Choice Makhetha (choicemakhetha@sun.ac.za) Senior Director: Student Affairs, Anele Mdepa (anelemdepa@sun.ac.za) Manager: Student Governance, Musa Mpanza (musam@sun.ac.za) Tygerberg Coordinator: Student Governance, Khairoonisa Foflonker (khairoonisa@sun.ac.za) Tygerberg Manager: Student Affairs.
- **Relevant dates:** The visit was on the 11th of October 2021 with subsequent submission of the proposal and the working document. The renovations are expected to continue running well into the New Year.
- **What went wrong:** A big problem that remains apparent is finding a solution for the Osler Hub issue. Full renovations of the TSRC cannot roll out without this problem being sold. Osler does not have a space to temporarily or permanently relocate.



- **What went well:** The whole engagement process with Student Governance, DSAF and DVC: T&L went smoothly and according to plan. I recommend an objective and assertive approach with a bit of lobbying in handling any similar matter.
- **Overall feedback of how event or activity panned out:** I think the proposal and the working document was received well. The para-engagement was also productive. I think the TSRC was received well in our plea.
- **Project feasibility:** Engagement of this issue should definitely be continued to ensure things do not come to how they are currently. Maintenance plans should be made and responsibility cast to different stakeholders to ensure the up keeping of the TSRC office. No budget required operationally from the TSRC. We used the reserve funds without an upper limit.

Student Assistant Librarian Project

- As part of the working document to the DVC: T&L, we submitted a request to re-initiate the Student Assistant Librarian project. This involved engagement with the Library on plausible operational hours and subsequent advertising of available posts. This allows for students to volunteer to run the library after-hours in an effort to increase hours available to students for studying purposes. Again, we used a solutions-based approach to foster an empowering and transformative student experience. We put students at the core and considered their study needs and devised a solution fitting for all stakeholders which we continue to engage on.
- **Key players:** Yusuf Ras (yr@sun.ac.za) Primary point of contact for engagement, Prof Deresh Ramjugernath (dereshr@sun.ac.za) DVC: Teaching and Learning – Primary custodian of working document.
- **Relevant dates:** Engagement occurred throughout October and in November, posts were advertised to the students. This project will continue into the New Year.
- **What went wrong:** We are aiming for a Library that is open 24/7 but the main problem to this is funding. We ended up settling for a compromise in the meanwhile but commit to engage on this further.
- **What went well:** We got the program re-initiated and that was met by quite positive engagement with stakeholders involved.
- **Overall feedback of how event or activity panned out:** The Library issue remains a pertinent issue which deserves a lot of attention, but I think so far things are moving in the right direction. This issue is bothersome in the sense that the main hindrance is funds to run a proper program for staff. The stakeholders involved were very receptive of engagement.
- **Project feasibility:** This project should be continued and explored further to fit the Tygerberg Context as much as possible and establish a 24/7 Library.

RegisterAll Campaign

- The goal of this project is to advocate for the students of Tygerberg to receive the benefits of the SRC registration campaign. (RegisterAll). The SRC registration campaign is to assist students to register (not just Stellenbosch students, all students) and therefore I used my role on the SRC to advocate for the Tygerberg students to assist them with the registration process. This was well-received by the SRC upon engagement.

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- **Key players:** Anele Mdepa (anelemdepa@sun.ac.za) Manager: Student Governance, Musa Mpanza (musam@sun.ac.za) Tygerberg Coordinator: Student Governance, Viwe Kobokana (viwek@sun.ac.za) SRC Executive, Tulia George (tulia@sun.ac.za) Coordinator: Recruitment Funds CUBL.
- **Timeline:** January-February registration period.
- **What went wrong:** Because of shortfalls on the SRC budget for RegisterAll (R250 000 which was split 80/20 for Stellenbosch campus and Tygerberg campus respectively) the TSRC decided to cover any Tygerberg students the SRC could not from the TSRC reserve funds. The demand for assistance from the campaign remains bigger than what the campaign can supply. Due to delays from and misunderstanding with CUBL, the timeline of the campaign was disturbed.
- **What went well:** The campaign is currently operational and there are students being assisted.
- **Overall feedback of how event or activity panned out:** Registrations remains a pertinent issue in the student community, proper planning (division of the SRC and TSRC into workstreams, including RegisterAll under Funding Operations Workstream) was pivotal in directing efficient assistance to the student body.
- **Project feasibility:** The project in its current state is not sustainable and ulterior methods of funding has to be explored. As it stands, both the SRC and TSRC are using their reserve funds to fund the campaign, which is not sustainable.

Miscellaneous

- **TSRC/DMT introduction** - We held a meeting in September for the DMT to meet the TSRC. This was followed by a subsequent meeting in November where we pitched issues like the preparedness of FMHS for return of students in 2022 and the Mandatory vaccination rule.
- I engaged the Residence Placement Office following a student reaching out to my office because of unfair treatment. This engagement produced amendments to management guidelines for 2022 intake, including 48 hours grace period to respond to a placement email, a prompt SMS to students who do not respond, and consideration of racially diversifying Ubuntu House.
- I attended the SAUS/DHET Leadership Capacity Development Workshop.
- I attended a Faculty Board meeting in my capacity as TSRC chair.
- Annual conversation - I attended the annual conversation of Hippokrates but I could not attend the others.
- I attended the Transformation Indaba.
- I attended SRC (EC) & SU Management meetings in my capacity as SRC (EC).
- I engaged with the TAAC on graduation and the pledge ceremony, and TAAC honoraria. The honoraria discussion remains an ongoing discussion until a solution is found.
- I attended the Advisory committee for Student Affairs (ACTSA) and Dean's Advisory Committee on Transformation (DACT) meetings in my capacity as TSRC Chairperson.
- I attended a series of the welcoming committee meetings where the welcoming timetable was discussed.
- I presented the new constitution to the DVC: T&L and Senior Director: Student Affairs in my capacity as outgoing Policy Officer and curator of the constitution. This was subsequently submitted to the language centre for translation and awaits submission to Student Court.



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- I attended the Strategic Committee on Recruitment, Selection and Admission in my capacity as TSRC Chairperson.
- I coordinated collaboration of workstreams and portfolios between the SRC and the TSRC, for issues relating to Maties Gym (Sport), branding (Communication), and accommodation (Campus operations).

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Plans for next term

The following will be taking place and continuing in the next term:

- SRC (EC) and General Meetings
- Rectorate Meetings
- TSRC Office Proposal
- Shuttle proposal
- TSRCares
- Visual Redress
- Student Librarian Project

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