



STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL
IBHUNGA ELIMELE ABAFUNDI
STUDENTERAAD



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1918 - 2018

SRC 2021/22 TERM REPORT I TRANSFORMATION

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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



ZANDER NIEMAND – TRANSFORMATION – AZN@SUN.AC.ZA

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Constitutional Responsibilities

Transformation does not have specific constitutional responsibilities outside of those stated in the SU Student Constitution for the SRC in its entirety. Chapter 4 s27(1) to act in the best interest of students and to actively promote students' rights under Chapter 2; ss(2) to represent students at – (a) the University Council; (b) the Senate; (c) the Institutional Forum; (d) other committees, bodies and functionaries of the University; and (e) national and international student bodies; ss(3) to evaluate the University policy and give input in the formulation thereof; ss(4) To formulate and maintain policy to ensure that the SRC performs its functions and duties effectively; ss(5) facilitate projects and initiatives to the benefit of students; and ss(6) To inform students continuously, and obtain feedback, about its activities. The Transformation Officer also acts as the owner of the Transformation Policy.

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Portfolio Overview

The role of SRC Transformation is to work to further transformation that favours students both institutionally, as well as socially. This pursuit of transformation should be intersectional, and should account for the diverse students who make up the student body of Stellenbosch University. The pursuit of transformation should also be in furtherance of the mandates of the 2021/2022 SRC, and should aim to ensure an educational approach that works in pursuit of positive knowledge. It should be an accessible process that enables and encourages students to be the driving force of the transformative process. And the pursuit of transformation should consider the holistic wellness of the individual and the community locally, nationally, and internationally.

The Transformation Officer has a responsibility to ensure that the gap that separates students is closed in order to ensure that students can engage with each other on fair and equitable grounds. The Transformation Portfolio should in addition work towards transforming Stellenbosch University into a just, equitable, diverse, and inclusive institution.



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Committees/Task Teams

I sit on the following committees:

1. Transformation and Critical Engagement Forum – Head
2. Student Institutional Transformation Committee – Chairperson
3. Institutional Forum
4. Transformation Office Monitoring and Evaluation Task Team
5. Siyakhule Capacity Development Project – Project Coordinator
6. Rector's Award Advisory Task Team

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Term Overview

The first term as Transformation Officer was dedicated to working on what transformation for the 2021/2022 term would look like. I engaged with positional and non-positional student leaders from various sectors of student life to get an understanding of the barriers that they feel hinder transformation at Stellenbosch University. I also had a meeting with Dr Mkhize (the head of the SU Transformation Office) to discuss transformation, work that has already been done, and the work that is currently being done.

In preparation for my term, I also looked at the work that was done by my predecessor, Viwe Kobokana, and planned on how I can continue to build and work on the significant progress she had made in furtherance of transformation. Once I had compiled all the information, I started working on what I would have to get done in the first term, in order to plan and have as much ready in advance to avoid lagging behind once the new year started.

1. I started my term by joining discussions on the critical engagements that would be offered to House Committees for Welcoming 2022. In these sessions, members pitched critical engagements. We discussed areas where it could be improved, as well as discussing what worked in order to ensure that the critical engagements sessions would be as effective and as informative as possible.
2. I also worked with Shanté Neff, from the Transformation Office, to plan out events and critical engagements around the Imbizo 365 Calendar. These sessions will be attended by the transformation and critical engagement forum's members. The aim is for these sessions to spark ideas for critical engagements that work to further the mission of transformation.
3. I did the planning needed for the Newcomer Transportation Workstream. I worked with Sharine Dowries (Administrative officer of Student Governance) to ensure that we would have the cars needed during welcoming. I also put a call out for volunteer drivers who would be accompanied by an SRC representative to greet newcomers.
4. I worked on putting together a workshop for the incoming SRC centered in key aspects of Transformation. This workshop was presented at the SRC camp and focused on race and racism, unconscious bias, gender, sex, and sexuality, and mental health. Katlego Letlonkane from the Transformation Office presented the session on race and racism, the debating union facilitated the session on unconscious bias, and a member of the 2020/2021 Transformation Committee the session on gender, sex, and sexuality.
5. I was invited to write an opinion piece on what my term as Transformation Officer would like, and what it would focus on.
6. I was invited onto MFM by Katlego Letlonkane to speak on Transformation and what the portfolio would aim to achieve.
7. I joined the monitoring and evaluation task team of the Transformation Office, and have been giving feedback in the issues raised in our bi-weekly meetings. The focus of the task team is to further the institutional scope and mandate of Transformation at Stellenbosch University.



8. I had an engagement with Katlego Letlonkane on the Siyakhula Capacity Development Project. One aspect of the project will focus on highlighting the forms in which racism can manifest on campus. The goal of the project is to spark conversations around critical issues on campus.
9. I also started planning for the Newcomer Transportation Workstream. This involved sending out a call for volunteer driver's, booking the vehicles from vehicle fleet, and setting up and planning the logistics of the initiative.



Budget Usage

Budget overview

For the first term, the Transformation Portfolio has not spent any of its allotted budget. The budget proposal for newcomer transportation was submitted, and the amount requested of R36 000 was approved.



Plans for next term

1. Implement and run the Newcomer Transportation Initiative which will assist in picking up newcomers at their port of arrival and shuttling them to their port of landing.
2. Start to coordinate the Siyakhula Capacity Development project. This would entail putting together a team to script and film the scenarios.
3. Start to work on the Imbizo 365 calendar with the Transformation Office. The role of the Transformation Officer will be to assist in formulating the final plans for the projects and events that are planned, and to give advice and to help with the marketing of events and projects.
4. Start planning for the Transformation Digest, which will be a student town hall held once a semester which will give students the opportunity to discuss barriers to transformation on the ground level.
5. Working on the reconstitution of the Student Institutional Transformation Committee with the Transformation Office.



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Recommendations to improve portfolio

The only recommendation that I have to improve the portfolio functioning is to set up the Transformation Committee as soon as elected in order to have extra hands available to help with planning and admin. The committee is also a great group to bounce ideas off from, and can help to ensure that the plans are maximally effective.

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