



STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL  
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# SRC 2021/22 TERMREPORT 2 TSRC CHAIRPERSON

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## VHUDI RAVHUTSI – TSRC CHAIRPERSON - [TSRCHAIR@SUN.AC.ZA](mailto:TSRCHAIR@SUN.AC.ZA)

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## Constitutional Responsibilities

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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

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The Tygerberg Student Representative Council Chairperson serves as the highest institutionalized representative of the Tygerberg Student Union. The TSRC Chairperson, as the CEO of the Tygerberg Student Representative Council, similarly 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) or Rectorate meetings.

Further to this, I was nominated to serve on the Honorary Degrees Nomination Committee and SAC Selections Committee on behalf of the SRC.

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.
- To empower all members of the TSRC to infiltrate spaces within the university's management and to increase their circle of influence, to advocate for Tygerberg Students to the best of their capability.
- To improve the visibility of the TSRC on campus by working with other student leadership bodies as well as non-positional leaders.
- To promote transparent and accountable governance.
- To improve the relationship between the SRC and the TSR.
- To be a proponent of social justice on campus as well as within my circle of influence in society at

large

According to the 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.
- 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,

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and that feedback is relayed back to the SRC. According to previous reports, agreement and 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

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### Committees

#### 1. Dean's Management Team (DMT)

- The Tygerberg Students' Representative Council (TSRC) Executive Committee (EC) meets the Dean's Management Team 8-weekly to discuss high level issues brought forth by the TSRC or the DMT. These issues usually are generally concerning management or fall directly under responsibility centres of the DMT members.
- On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February, we met the DMT where we engaged notably on FMHS's Response to the TSRC Memorandum on Academic Exclusion and Academic Empowerment (see addendum 2) that I had addressed to the Office of the Deputy Registrar: Tygerberg Campus (see addendum 1). This led to discussions around optimization of the readmissions process and efforts to increase academic support to Tygerberg students. Other matters discussed include the Laptop Loan program headed by the TSRC Student Community Needs Officer in collaboration with the Manager: Tygerberg Student Affairs, TSRC-TAAC Vaccine Task Team feedback, TSRC representation on Official FMHS events and visits, and feedback on DMT activities.

#### 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 DoHET 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 widely confidential. Some mentionable issues discussed when this committee met are update to the 2023-intake selection guidelines, Reports on the implementation of the Situational Judgement Test (SJT) for 2022-intake, Work Psychology Group Evaluation Report for Stellenbosch University SJT 2021, Selection Office feedback report, Undergraduate selection and registration statistics, SU undergraduate Open Day, FMHS Recruitment Plan, and update on Rector's Discretionary Placement numbers and process.



### 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, food-related matters, Centre for Student Counselling & Development (Developments and trends during lockdown, Food security, feedback on the Mental Health Plan and Substance Abuse Policy development, Campus/Res Life and Culture Review, and Communication regarding interruptions and hospitalisations of students.

### 4. FMHS Faculty Board

- FMHS Faculty Board is a standing committee of the Senate for the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences. Faculty Board makes proposals and recommendations to the Senate in respect of academic programmes and activities in the faculty, and advise the Senate on any matter, and perform any function, referred to it by Senate.
- Matters of this committee are largely confidential. Mentionable points from the meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February 2022 include report on Final Consultation Work Policy, Dean's Management Report, and reports by committees (Centre for Undergraduate Teaching, Centre for Postgraduate Teaching, and Centre for Postgraduate Research).

### 5. DSAf Charter Sub-committee

- This committee was established to plan the launch of the new DSAf Transformation Charter at the annual DSAf Transformation Summit.
- This committee met regularly to discuss issues such as the date of the summit, venue, marketing, format of the summit, translation of the charter, and unveiling of the charter.

### 6. 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.



## 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.
- The task team had its first meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2022 to divide the team to focus on the two bicameral bodies and come up with provisions for suggested rules and regulations.
- The work of this task team is still ongoing.

### 2. TSRC E-wasting and Recycling Task Team

- This Task Team was established to aid the TSRC Office Proposal. The function of this task team is to renew the TSRC spaces by discarding, recycling and e-wasting equipment in the office using green and sustainable means to make the office space more usable. Further to this, the Task Team is responsible for conserving institutional memory at the FMHS Faculty Archive.
- The task team has been meeting and organizing with different stakeholders like IT, the TSS Recycling centre, Student Governance and the Office of the Deputy registrar: Tygerberg to fulfil the above-mentioned duties.





## Term Overview

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### 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. Further to this, the SRC (EC) also met with DSAf and Rectorate. 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. From December through to January, we invested time into attacking the welcoming and registration period in SRC Executive Meetings by using a workstream approach, where the team was divided into workstreams given mandates to fulfil in order to enrich the functioning of the SRC through the welcoming and registration period. My main role during the planning and execution of said workstream approach was informing the SRC Executive of the Tygerberg context and integrating the TSRC into the various workstreams to make sure the Tygerberg context is considered. In February, we engaged on issues like remedial action to support students who applied for readmission, unfair readmission procedures, NSFAS, etc. and also report on these issues at a mass meeting. In March, we engaged on matters such as venue usage costs which formed the basis of the Tygerberg Societies Council (TSC) Report and memorandum (see addendum 3).
- 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.
- Key players: SRC Executive Committee and SRC.
- **Date of event/ task:** SRC Executive meetings occur every Monday and SRC General Meetings occur every Wednesday notwithstanding special circumstances.
- **What went wrong:** It is not at all 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

- The working document (see addendum 4) submitted to the Deputy Vice Chancellor: T&L has been extensively engaged on and formed a basis of engagement for a number of issues including TSRC Office, Osler Hub, ER24 services, Food services, etc. Some of these issues were engaged on successfully to their completion, whereas the remaining are being engaged on.
- 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:** DVC: Teaching and Learning – Primary custodian of working document, Senior Director: Student Affairs, Manager: Student Governance, Tygerberg Coordinator: Student Governance, Tygerberg Manager: Student Affairs.
- **Date of event/ task:** The visit was on the 11th of October 2021 with subsequent submission of the proposal and the working document.
- **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 upkeep of the TSRC office. No budget required operationally from the TSRC. We used the reserve funds without an upper limit.

### Student Assistant Librarian Project

- This project was successfully completed. The engagement yielded the proposed result seeing reinstated library hours via a cohort of hired students to act as student assistant librarians after hours. This project has been well-received and will continue to be explored and optimized further to best benefit the Tygerberg students.
- Key players: Tygerberg Library Manager, DVC: Teaching and Learning – Primary custodian of working document.
- **Date of event/ task:** Advertisement, shortlisting, interviews and selections occurred through the term and project officially was operational from 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2022.
- **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. Budget not required.

### Miscellaneous

- I gave a welcoming speech to the newcomers at the Dean's Welcoming in my capacity as TSRC Chairperson.
- I attended the DSAf Transformation Summit.
- I shot a production video for SU Open Day in my capacity as TSRC Chairperson.
- I attended the first term house meetings of the Tygerberg residences after the TSRC Feedback forum to engage with the communities.
- I attended SRC EC & SU Management meetings in my capacity as TSRC Chairperson and SRC (EC).
- I attended the Dean's Open conversation.



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## Plans for next term

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SRC (EC) and General Meetings, Rectorate Meetings, TSRC Office Proposal, Shuttle proposal, and Visual Redress, will be taking place and continuing in the next term.

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## Addenda

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