



STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL
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SRC 2021/22 TERMREPORT 2 PRIM COMMITTEE VICE- CHAIRPERSON

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Table of Contents

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Constitutional Responsibilities..... | 2 |
| Portfolio Overview..... | 3 |
| Committees/Task Teams | 4 |
| Term Overview..... | 6 |
| Budget Usage | 7 |
| Plans for next term..... | 8 |

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Constitutional Responsibilities

Chapter 9 of the Student Constitution (“SC”) deals with the Prim Committee (“PC”) and sets out the various powers and duties of the Prim Committee.

Section 98 of the SC explains the composition of the PC. It is important to take note of section 98(1)(a) which holds that “the PC consists of the chairperson and the executive committee of the PC with rights as granted to them by the PC Constitution”. Section 99 of the SC deals with the duties and powers and holds that the PC represents the interests of all residents of residences and members of PSOs at the SRC and University management and further states that decisions taken by the PC are binding on all House Committees. Section 100 sets out the PC’s constitutional mandate and holds that the PC must actively promote the rights of students as contained in Chapter 2 of the SC and makes specific reference to section 8(1) of the SC. Section 101 of the SC deals with the different communities’ constitutions, rules and regulations. This section holds that the PC Constitution is binding on all communities’ constitutions which form part of the PC. Section 101(5) of the SC gives the PC the power to “establish a committee for the purpose of approving any constitutions, rules, or regulations, or amendments, thereto by House Committees”.

The PC is mainly governed by the PC Constitution.



Portfolio Overview

The Prim Committee is an *ex-officio* structure to the SRC. The Vice-Chairperson's basic duties are outlined in the PC Constitution, and I am encompassed with ensuring that all student communities operate to their full potential. As per the PC Constitution, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the PC must be the main representative of either PSOs or residences. For the 2021/2022 term, the Vice-Chairperson is the main representative of residences.

The PC serves as a platform for any student in a community space to take their query to the House Committee, the House Committee takes it to the Prim who then reports it to the PC meeting. The PC executive then either deal with the query or refer it to a higher structure. The Vice-Chairperson's duty is to ensure that all queries in the residence spaces are heard and then resolved as expeditiously as possible. If the matter can't be resolved on PC level, the matter will be referred to either the SRC or CSC.



Committees/Task Teams

Institutional Advisory Committee for Internationalisation

Stellenbosch University strives to become an international competitor and this committee, in my humble opinion, is one of the best committees within the University to achieve this goal. The committee receives funding across the globe and is divided into different task teams to ensure its international success. The committee's mandate is to secure as much fruitful partnerships with other Universities across the globe as possible and be part of selected and strategic alliances. Each member of the committee has a different project they run, and the meetings affords each member an opportunity to provide feedback and present a progress update on the project they are tasked with.

RegisterAll task team

During the welcoming period I served on the RegisterAll task team which ensures that any student with financial needs won't be excluded. The SRC make funds available to help students in need with their first instalment. I had to liaise with the Post Graduate Office and CUBL to see what the financial situation of each student in need is (do a financial neediness check) and then report back to the task team. The purpose of the meetings is to provide feedback on the progress made and then decide which students should receive the financial assistance. During my first report the process was still ongoing, by this time the process has been completed and many students received the necessary financial assistance.

Welcoming Committee

The Vice-Chairperson serves on the Welcoming Committee of the University, together with representatives of CSC, various faculties, and other student leadership structures. This committee is tasked with planning the welcoming period which include faculty programmes, the event at the Danie Craven, the Dreamwalk etc. The purpose of the meetings is to bring all stakeholders on the same page with regards to the progress that has been made and what is expected of each structure during welcoming.



Maties T-Shirt Committee

I served on the Maties T-Shirt Committee which was tasked with discussing and designing the 2022 Maties T-Shirt. With the University undergoing an entire rebranding project, a bigger emphasis was put on the 2022 Maties T-Shirt in comparison to previous years. The T-Shirt had to be as inclusive as possible and clearly display the values of the University.

Monitors Advisory Committee (MAC)

I served on the MAC Committee which reviews complaints lodged by monitors during the welcoming period. Stellenbosch University strives to welcome all newcomers in the friendliest and most welcoming way possible by ensuring that the values of the University are lived out by the various communities during the welcoming period. The monitors are objective and report on any activity/behaviour which they deem to be potentially unwelcoming or problematic. This is reported to the head monitor who then in turn reports it to the MAC Committee. The MAC Committee then reviews the complaints and decide on the most appropriate action moving forward. It is then expected of the Vice-Chairperson to engage with the Prims of the various communities on these potential issues and provide feedback to the MAC Committee.

Student Communities Advisory Committee

This committee serves as a platform where any matter which concerns student communities can be raised. This includes maintenance/upgrades to certain residences and buildings on campus, new projects envisaged for Stellenbosch University, the day-to-day operations of communities etc. Various staff and students represent their constituencies on this committee.

Advisory Committee on Review of Residence Rules

There will be a complete review/rewrite of the residence rules. This committee serves as an advisory committee on how this process ought to take place and also serves as a forum where its members can provide feedback on the work completed thus far. The process should be completed by the third quarter.



Term Overview

As mentioned, the Vice-Chairperson serves on the MAC Committee. Even though matters of concern were raised at the MAC Committee meetings, all issues were resolved and the 2022 Welcoming was a huge success. The monitors' report has been released which summarises the observations of all the monitors during welcoming. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the PC has worked through this document and will now engage with the Prims of various communities based on the feedback contained in the report. We had various meetings with the Head Monitor, Ms Aerin Kotzee and the Monitor Coordinator, Ms Kristan Sharpley to discuss possible improvements and changes to the monitor process. One thing that I am driving is for Prims to be able to provide feedback on their monitor experience or even be able to write and submit their own report at the end of welcoming. It is important to receive feedback from both sides moving forward.

After months of consultation, the University has approved the Alcohol Rules. This policy enables each community to draw up their own alcohol policy within the limitations of the Alcohol Rules. The Chair and the Vice-Chair have had and continues to have, together with representatives of CSC, meetings with the various residence heads to discuss and later approve the communities' alcohol policies.

After identifying various issues which the Prims have brought to the PC meeting, we have decided to create five task teams. The Prims will be divided into the different task teams and will be mandated to either come up with a possible solution or suggested path forward before the end of their term.



Budget Usage

| <u>Project</u> | <u>Amount budgeted</u> | <u>Amount utilised</u> | <u>Amount available</u> |
|----------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

The PC budget falls under CSC.



Plans for next term

We will start to allow the Prims to bring guests to the various PC meetings. These guests will be people who are considering standing for the position of Prim for the next term. The purpose of this is to create an opportunity for people considering standing for Prim to see how the PC functions.

We have been in conversation with the AAC, CSC and Student Governance to talk about HEMIS and the possibility of amending its current form. Some suggestions have been made to remove HEMIS for newcomer students as this places unnecessary stress on them. The first few months of a student's first year is mainly used to adapt to their new environment and is a stressful time for students of all backgrounds. Many newcomers have lost half-year HEMIS which have resulted in them losing their space in residences. Newcomers should be given a fair opportunity to adapt in their new environment.

As most students are returning to face-to-face lectures and tests, it has been observed that the transition from online learning back to face-to-face poses some challenges for students. We will be engaging with the Prims to ensure that their communities have the resources and structures in place. In addition, we will be engaging with the AAC to ensure that we cover all the bases.

I will continue to serve the various communities, especially the residence spaces, to the best of my abilities.