



Stellenbosch

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Students' Representative Council
Ibhunga elimele abafundi
Studenteraad



SRC TERM 2 REPORT

SRC Safety and Security Portfolio



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Foreword



**Tayo Allerton- Safety
and Security Portfolio
Manager-**
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Warm Greetings fellow Maties,

The first term of 2023 got off to a fast start with many events being held across the campus as well as new forums and communications channels being set up.

On reflection, the chaotic affair that is the welcoming period was navigated smoothly and effectively by student leadership across different community spaces relating to safety and security. In my personal opinion, the first term of 2023 was marked by proactive and effective communication across different spheres of student leadership in the safety and security space. A key focus of my portfolio this term was to be outward-focussed, to give student leaders across various community spaces the platform and voice to be able to air their grievances, and to be invited into meaningful engagements that result in actualizable change for the students they serve.

Even though there are challenges that remain to safety and security, it is my vision for the remainder of this year to facilitate a collaborative effort to ensure the safest, but also most rewarding time spent at Stellenbosch University for my fellow students.

Looking forward, I am truly excited and optimistic about some events that are being planned for this portfolio in the upcoming months, whilst always being attentive to the needs and wellbeing of the SU student community.

Yours in safety,

Tayo Allerton.

Constitutional Responsibilities

According to the student constitution by constitutional responsibilities are the following:

- 1) The Safety and Security manager has the duty of acting in the best interest of students by actively working with the relevant structures and stakeholders to ensure the Safety and Security of students at Stellenbosch University at both Tygerberg and Stellenbosch campus. This responsibility is fulfilled by facilitating projects and initiatives to the benefit of students and to inform students continuously, and obtain feedback, about its activities via the SRC (meetings and/or media platforms). Where possible this portfolio may formulate and maintain policy regarding Safety and Security in order to ensure that the SRC performs its functions and duties effectively

Portfolio Overview

- 1) The role of the Safety and Security portfolio head is to perform safety reviews of SU campuses and report to the SRC and relevant institutional structures there on. They Initiate projects to further increase the safety of students and facilitate safety training such as first aid training for student community leaders. They also coordinate with Faculty and Community leadership to ensure safety concerns are effectively dealt with at the relevant institutional structures, collaborating to ensure the safety wellbeing of all SU student. The mission of the portfolio is to work purposefully towards promoting and ensuring the safety and security of students at Stellenbosch University at both the Stellenbosch and Tygerberg campus. This while fostering a culture of zero-tolerance to GBV and empowering students with the necessary awareness and information to ensure their safety and wellbeing is looked after proactively.

Committees/Task Teams

I serve on the following Committees and or Task Teams:

The Safety and Security manager is part of the Stellenbosch Safety Forum consisting of SAPS Stellenbosch, Stellenbosch Municipality and Campus security, as well as the. This forum aims to collaborate with by disseminating pertinent information and organizing proactive campaigns to reach the relevant constituents of the student communities across the Stellenbosch campus. Additionally, the Safety manager assists with organising the University safety forum consisting of the Residence and P.S.O. safety managers This forum has the mandate of bringing safety issues affecting their constituents to the

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fore, so that the SRC Safety and Security manager can report these to the SRC and Campus Security. Mr Brandon Como and Mrs Melany Le Roux from Campus Security are also a part of the Safety forum and are thus directly informed of such incidents.

Term 2 Overview

Facilities Forum

During a meeting of the Safety Forum consisting of residence and PSO safety HC members, it was brought to the attention of my portfolio that many residences we facing issues pertaining to the safety and access to their spaces during load-shedding, as well as some other problems that have been facing those spaces for some time.

A meeting was then held 2 weeks later with Mr Anand Naiker from facilities management and the safety and/or facilities HC's from spaces that have been affected for the issues to be raised and addressed. We are deeply thankful as a student body towards Mr Naiker for the sincere effort he has made in successfully addressing and resolving all of the issues that were brought forward at the meeting, which is a huge step in the right direction in terms of how we involved in student safety communicate and resolve the issues facing student residence and PSO facilities.

Steps such as these to give the students as well as student leaders in different spaces a platform to air their grievances and receive answers from the University regarding issues students face was a key goal in this chapter of the portfolio, and we thank the facilities management team for their efforts in first providing a space for these engagements to take place, as well as taking swift action to address the issues faced that pose a safety risk to our students.

Safety and Self-Defence Workshops for Newcomers and Student Leadership

At the time of writing of the previous report, safety and self-defence workshops were held at various residences, clusters and PSO venues during the welcoming period, commencing on the 1st of February and concluding on the 11th of February 2023. More than 20 different residences and PSO's were visited over the welcoming period in a joint collaboration between the SRC's Safety and Security portfolio, Campus Security, as well as SAPS. The aim of these workshops was two-fold. Firstly, they comprised of an information session to educate students on the specific needs and challenges facing SU as an open campus and how to best conduct oneself on a campus in terms of personal and property safety, to inform students about how to contact and report incidents to campus security, as well as advocating for the importance of making use of the walk-with and shuttle services on offer to students travelling across campus or to outlying areas of campus after dark. The second component of these workshops included a practical self-defence workshop hosted by the Safety and Security portfolio manager, with assistance from Mr Jon Williams from SA JKA Karate, an internationally qualified and acclaimed self-defence instructor. These sessions received fantastic engagement and feedback from students, who all left empowered with new knowledge and skills to be able to look after themselves and their possessions on campus.

Plans for Next Term

Term Goals

The vision for this term is to host multiple events to equip students with the necessary safety awareness's and skills across different sectors of involvement. This will be achieved through events that are specifically targeted towards areas identified as crucial in terms of skills and awareness for student leaders operating in the safety and security space. These events will encompass a majority of the student engagement for this year's portfolio, to reach and impact the lives and minds of as many students as possible.

Fire Safety Workshops

Safety and Facilities managers have been invited to attend fire safety workshops that will be held in an educational and context-specific manner. The purpose of these workshops is to equip the safety and/or facilities HC's with key areas of awareness and insight in how to deal with fire and evacuation procedures in the safest and most orderly manner possible. The workshops will be held in conjunction with Stellenbosch Municipalities Fire and Rescue Training Academy, alongside Campus Security who will conduct a course including a practical workshop with the relevant student leaders. With recent events on campus around this issue, this portfolio as outlined this as a key area of action necessary to equip all student spaces with the requisite knowledge and insight to safely coordinate their student space when required.

Additional Self-Defence Training

Further Self-Defence courses will be at the Tygerberg campus, who were not able to receive a full round of instruction during the welcoming period due to the time restraints on our team. Practical workshops will be held at the Tygerberg campus where students will receive an introduction around safety awareness tips and the fundamental do's and don'ts pertaining to personal and property security. Following the engagement session, students will have to opportunity to learn and practice some basic fundamentals of self-defence to give them exposure to the concepts and principles of protecting oneself.

Other student residence or PSO spaces that have specifically requested additional self-defence training for their communities will also be serviced with more context-specific engagements on personal protection, building on the foundation laid during the introductory session held during the welcoming period.

A21 Human Trafficking Campaign

Currently in the planning process is a campaign in collaboration to raise awareness around as well as educate student on the realities around human trafficking globally and in South Africa. This is a part of the Safety and Security portfolios goals of addressing issues of Gender-Based Violence on campus and within SU spaces, which is part of not only a national, but also international epidemic. This will also include engagement with the Equality Unit as a key contributor towards awareness of reporting, handling mitigating issues surrounding GBV.

Update on Crime and Reporting Trends on Campus

The portfolio aims to keep a constant finger to the pulse on trends of crimes committed and the reporting of these incidents on campus throughout the year. The portfolio manager will meet regularly with Mr Como and Mrs Van Zyl from Campus Security to get an update on the latest incidents as well as trends seen on campus, so that the necessary interventions can be implemented to ensure a proactive stance towards addressing safety issues on SU campuses. These engagements also including the meeting of the Safety Forum which takes place twice per term, where safety HC's from different residence spaces are updated on plans for the portfolio, and are provided with a platform to bring important issues or ideas to the fore to discuss in the forum