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# SRC 2021/22 TERMREPORT 2 WOMXN AND QUEER EMPOWERMENT “WAQE”

*saam vorentoe · masiye phambili · forward together*

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## ALEX VINK – WOMXN AND QUEER EMPOWERMENT (“WAQE”)– 21964769@SUN.AC.ZA

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## Constitutional Responsibilities

Womxn and Queer empowerment does not have specified constitutional responsibilities, outside of those stated in the SU Student Constitution for the SRC in its entirety. Chapter 2 s4(2) makes it clear that all student structures, as mentioned in s3 of the SU Student Constitution, must take steps to ensure the protection and promotion of all rights contained in Chapter 2 and the Constitution in its entirety. These ranging from equality (s5), human dignity(s6), confidentiality of student records(s7), Freedom of religion belief and opinion (s9), freedom of expression (s10). These rights all directly link to the vision, mission and mandate of the Womxn and Queer empowerment portfolio.

My duties as a Manager is clearly set out in Chapter 4 S36 of the SU Student Constitution. S36(1) highlighting that managers are in charge of portfolios mainly consisting of an organisational and administrative function. S36(4) stating that managers are accountable to a specific SRC member and the whole SRC.



## Portfolio Overview

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The *Womxn and Queer Empowerment* (“WAQE”) portfolios main aim is to actively diminish institutional patriarchy, end rape culture, queer phobia, and gender-based violence. To initiate and develop projects to: encourage the upliftment of womxn, empower queer persons and provide safe and equitable spaces for womxn and queer communities.

The WAQE portfolio intending to do so through encouragement, education, support, transparency, and accountability. This will be achieved by transformative engagement with students, student-leaders, staff, and the broader community of Stellenbosch. We will be creating safe-spaces to tackle the issues of GBV, femicide and queer-phobia plaguing our society. Networking session will be implemented to encourage the idea of ‘community’, empowering leadership development and engagement between womxn and queer bodies of all parts of the SU communities. The foundation of the portfolio then being the promotion human dignity and respect for all. WAQE aims to create a community at SU, whereby all womxn and queer bodies feel safe, protected, heard, and included.



## Committees/Task Teams

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### SRC Committee(s):

- WAQE Team

Purpose: To assist the WAQE manager with the running of the portfolio.

Significant matters: The WAQAE Team accomplished a lot in the past term, all our term targets were met. A notable change however, was the inclusion of a new general member Laila Zouheir.

- WAQE Forum

Purpose: To provide support, foster engagement, and assist all WAQE leader of the various communities. The forum is in place to allow for the formation of meaningful collaborations between the various communities and structures, to help further WAQES mission on campus.

### Institutional Committee(s):

- Residence Rules Review: Advisory Committee

Purpose: The Residence Rules Review Advisory Committee is put into place to assess all the rules currently in place. To assess its equability, fairness and if rules should be changed in anyway. The committee meets bi-weekly, where each meeting tackles a different residence rule which is to be reviewed.

Significant matters: The committee was recently formed, so the meetings have been purely administrative.

- SU GBV Monitoring Committee

Purpose: The Anti-GBV Monitoring Committee purpose will be to meet with the Chairpersons of Committees from all environments in the University every quarter. Whereby we will work together to report findings, discuss issues faced across the institution, share ideas/information. As a way of monitoring progress on the issue of GBV at in institution.

Significant matters: The committee was recently formed, so the meetings have been purely administrative.



## Term Overview

1. WAQE worked alongside QueerUs, during Cape Town Pride Week. We hosted two events leading up to the main Pride event in Cape Town. We hosted the first safe space of the year, which takes place weekly on Wednesday evenings. Going forward, WAQE will be running the “Brave Spaces” held once a month in the Wednesday slots, which is open to both queer-bodies and ally’s.
2. WAQE also held its first critical engagement during Cape Town Pride Week. It was in the form of a picnic. We engaged with the students on sexual health, and the offerings available to students at the Equality Unit. The Equality Unit assisted us with contraceptive products and lubricants, which was given out to the students who attended the event.
3. In February WAQE launched the “STAY WAQE” podcast, on Spotify. The first episode was then released in March, and all follow-up episodes will be released monthly. The podcast is now available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts and Anchor Podcasts.
4. WAQE also worked closely with Fem-I, which is a teach company aiming at launching a safety app in the Stellenbosch area. The app aims to help improve the Gender-based violence crisis in Stellenbosch. The current stage of the app was however not be beneficial to students yet, but we will be hoping to work with the company in the future stages of development.
5. WAQE assisted the Alumni Office, specifically SWAN, during International Women’s Day. The WAQE team together with members of the Alumni Office, handed out goodies to ‘women’ students on campus.
6. WAQE officially started the ‘WAQE Forum’. The Forum currently consists of all the Women and/or Queer Empowerment portfolio holders on campus. Communities without such portfolio holders sent in other portfolio holders e.g. Critical Engagement House Committee members, to ensure that their communities are involved and represented.
7. Through the creation of the WAQE Forum, we also saw many communities officially change their portfolio title to ‘WAQE’. This shows the progress the campus communities are making to share in the vision and mission of the SRC WAQE portfolio- to empower, support and protect women and queer-bodies on campus.
8. WAQE assisted numerous communities on inclusive language to be used when creating posters. How they could be more inclusive with pad-drives, and also helped them to acquire speakers for critical-engagements, pertaining to women and queer-bodies.
9. WAQE assisted the Sonop, Irene and Helshoogte WAQE portfolio holders, with an event hosted to commemorate those fighting Endometriosis. The event was in the form of a peaceful march, after which students discussed their experiences and to educate one another. The residences also made a banner, to show their support to the SRC WAQE portfolios vision and mission, to empower and support women on campus. The banner is currently hung up in the SRC office.
10. WAQE assisted and help with numerous GBV incidents in the past term.



## Budget Usage

<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount budgeted</u>	<u>Amount utilised</u>	<u>Amount available</u>
Podcast	R1200	R0	R1200
Critical engagements	R3800	R1048	R2752
Networking Sessions	R5200	R0	R5200
Pride Week	R4800	R0	R4800
Womxn's week	R3300	R0	R3300
Committee costs	R3200	R0	R3200
GBV Costs	R5200	R0	R5200

### Budget and Reasonings:

- We hosted our first critical engagement, in the form of a Pride Picnic. The money spent was used towards the refreshments that was served.



## Plans for next term

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1. *Host our final critical engagement , 'The meaning and intersectionality of GBV'.*
2. *Host our scheduled Pride events in May.*
3. *Start with our critical engagements requested for specific communities, as per our request system with the WAQE Forum.*
4. *Continue to release further episodes of the STAY WAQE podcast monthly.*