



Stellenbosch

UNIVERSITY
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SRC

Students' Representative Council
Ibhunga elimele abaFundi
Studenteraad



SRC 2024 TERM I REPORT

SOCIETIES COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

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Foreword

Hello fellow Maties,

My name is Thandile Ngxikwe and I serve as the Societies Council Chairperson. I regard being the Societies Council Chairperson as my primary role because I also serve as an ex-officio member of the SRC (this part came as a surprise to me or maybe I didn't read that part of the constitution but whatever it is, this is a reminder to you to read the student constitution). This term report will be a combination of the work I do for both these roles, I have learnt and how I am managing these roles and their responsibilities.

Firstly, leadership is hard. You have to make executive decisions, manage working in a team with people with different personalities, make uncomfortable choices that may not always be what you want to do and you have to be able to account for your actions and decisions. In theory, this is a task that very few would undertake because of the immense responsibility it comes with, especially not as a student with academics to juggle as well. I am a bit adventurous then most so I have been a student leader since my first year. This is a combination of having a big personality, a passion for justice and a curious mind and spirit.

My leadership journey has not been easy nor linear. I have made mistakes and I will probably still make mistakes this year too but if there one thing being a student leader has taught me, is that, failing/ making mistakes is a part of learning, growing and becoming a better leader. Making mistakes does not have a good reputation however so it is easy to take the mistakes you make personally, especially if you take leading seriously.

Coming into a leadership role, there is an expectation on you to know what a chairperson does, is supposed to do and is supposed to know but in reality, a chairperson is a young girl from Delft that believes in herself, her capabilities and what she has learnt so much, that she wants to test herself to see if she can lead and hold a team together in pursuit of our constitutional mandate and collective vision for the structure.

For now, so far so good.

saam vorentoe · masiye phambili · forward together



– SC Chairperson
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Constitutional Responsibilities

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

- 1) Societies Council constitution: The Chairperson of the Societies' Council is responsible for:
 - 2.1.1. Serving as Chair at meetings of the Societies' Council and Executive Committee.
 - 2.1.2. Representing the interests of all societies' on the Students' Representative Council.
 - 2.1.3. Ensuring that Societies' Council adopts the Code of Conduct.
 - 2.1.4. Oversight over the activities of Societies', the Societies' Council, and the Societies' Council Executive Committee.
 - 2.1.5. Holding the Executive Committee accountable.
 - 2.1.6. Assigning responsibilities and projects to the Executive Committee.
 - 2.1.7. External correspondence on behalf of the Council to other Student Leadership Structures.
 - 2.1.8. Responsible for oversight of the Societies' Council funds.
 - 2.1.9. Calling the referendum when necessary.

Portfolio Overview

- 1) According to the student constitution: An ex officio member of the SRC – (1) May, in addition to their ex officio position, only accept one other portfolio on the SRC, whether that portfolio is compulsory or not.
 - (2) May not accept any other portfolios if they serve on the Executive Committee of the SRC.
 - (3) May not hold the position of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, or Treasurer of the SRC.

Committees/Task Teams

GBV committee

Term 2 Overview

Term 2 was busier than the Term 1. In term one, we had the Annual General Meeting (AGM). This meeting happens after the election of the exec to meet the General Council and discuss plans for the leadership term ahead. The other task I prioritized in the first term was fostering a good work environment for my team and I because I was feeling insecure and maybe like an imposter because I had doubted my ability to execute the role of Chairperson. This was good practise and preparation because Term 2 really tested my abilities but also strengthened my skills.

We had both the Welcoming Fair and Senior's fair this term which are big events for the Council. The first couple of weeks of the term were a stressful time of planning, prepping and logistics but working together as a team, we executed both events well. We made some mistakes in the first fair which we corrected and executed better in the second and smaller fair but overall, I am proud of the work we did to prompt and redeem the structure again after the Covid hiatus.

The following are recommendations of some of the things we introduced/implemented for the Welcoming Fair:

- Charge external vendors to participate in the fair because it is an expensive event to put together and the extra money will come into good use.
- Hire a car for the day because so much can go wrong so having a car makes things better especially considering the fair is off campus.
- In your planning, always remember to make the event fun for the newcomers. The fair is one of first year's event in university therefore make it memorable by being intentional about inclusivity and the atmosphere of the event.

The planning of the fairs come with frustration because societies are a lot of people to work with and facilitate because they come with different needs. As the Chairperson, you need to guide when needed and reprimand yourself, your exec team and the rest of the Council. This sounds very dramatized, I know but what I want to highlight is my struggle with having to work with so many different people, some which are going to unnecessarily push your buttons to get a reaction. It is unfortunate that I am enjoying the role because I am learning so much and I am good at what I do so they won't keep a good man down.

Plans for Next Term

For the upcoming term, I plan on continuing to learn, grow in my capabilities to lead others as well as my ability to inspire. I hope to inspire good Black leadership, team building and collaboration amongst leadership structures and societies.

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