



Stellenbosch

UNIVERSITY
IYUNIVESITHI
UNIVERSITEIT

SRC

Students' Representative Council
Ibhunga elimele abafundi
Studenteraad

SRC TERM 3 REPORT

Prim Committee Vice-Chairperson



Students' Representative Council

Third Floor, Neelsie Student Centre

Private Bag X1, Matieland, 7602

Tel: +27 21 808 2757 | Email: sr@sun.ac.za

Table of Contents

Foreword	2
Constitutional Responsibilities	3
Portfolio Overview	4
Committees/Task Teams	5
Term 2 Overview	7
Plans for Next Term	9

Rudi Claassen – Prim Committee Vice-Chairperson – rkclaassen@sun.ac.za



Foreword

DEAR STUDENTS,

It has been a great privilege thus far to serve my fellow students, and student communities, on the Prim Committee and the SRC. Since my election in August 2022, I have made it my mission to represent the needs of student communities on various platforms and to provide the necessary support to student leaders in community spaces.

Through my experience as a HC member and then as Prim, I have learnt the skills required to effectively manage the workload of being a student leaders. It is my hope that I can equip others with these skills so that they may become the future leaders on campus, and thrive whilst doing so.

I look forward to continuing my journey as an ex-officio member on the SRC and working towards a better experience at Stellenbosch University for all students!

Warm regards,

Rudi Claassen

Constitutional Responsibilities

As per SU Statute:

Section 68:

"**'Prim Committee'** means the committee of head students of the various residences and in the private student organisations of the University".

As per Student Constitution:

Chapter 9 of the Student Constitution deals with the Prim Committee (PC) and sets out the composition, powers and duties of the PC.

Section 100: Constitutional mandate

"The Prim Committee has a constitutional mandate to:

- (1) Actively promote the rights of students contained in CHAPTER 2, and specifically the right, under s8(1), to an enabling campus environment in which student success and academic excellence are encouraged and pursued.
- (2) Serve as a forum of house committee leaders that strives to protect and further the interests of all students, by advising the SRC via the Prim Committee chairperson and vice-chairperson."

As per Prim Committee Constitution:

The PC Constitution, as amended in 2022, provides the mission, vision and core values of the Prim Committee. It also organises the affairs of the PC in respect of its meeting procedures, rights and duties, and code of conduct.

Section 5: Vision

"To sustainably foster a collaborative, advisory, and accountable relationship between Communities as well as to advocate for the needs of the students within these Communities in any and all bodies necessary."

Section 6: Mission

"To ensure that the values of the university are not only reflected within Communities but upheld intentionally when representing students within said communities. The Prim Committee does this through its collaborative and deliberative engagements."

Section 7: Nature of the Prim Committee

- (1) The Prim Committee is established by the Student Constitution as an autonomous student representational body and grants it all the powers necessary for that function.
- (2) The Prim Committee functions in partnership with the CSC to facilitate the advocacy of community-based needs to the CSC, SRC, and relevant university management.
- (3) The Prim Committee also serves as an adequate relay of information between university structures and the Prims of the houses, through the presence of the Prim Committee Executive members on various relevant bodies.
- (4) The Prim Committee Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson function as ex-officio members of the SRC and thus, form a chain between the Centre for Student Governance and the CSC.
- (5) The Prim Committee functions to ensure that all Communities represented in the committee function in alignment with the student constitution as well as residence rules. Any community deviating from these documents shall be held accountable.

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, which includes the duty of 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 representative of either PSOs or residences. For the 2022/23 term, the Vice-Chairperson is the representative of residences.

The PC serves as a platform where any student in a community space may raise a query through their respective House Committees and Prims, who then reports it to the PC meeting. The PC Executive will then deal with the matter directly or refer it to the relevant structure where appropriate. 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.

PC Constitution section 46(2):

"The Vice-Chairperson of the Prim Committee deputises the Chairperson and is at least responsible for –

saam vorentoe • masiye phambili • forward together

Students' Representative Council
Third Floor, Neelsie Student Centre
Private Bag X1, Matieland, 7602
Tel: +27 21 808 2757 | Email: sr@sun.ac.za

- (a) The duties of the Chairperson in the event of the Chairperson being ill or unavailable.
- (b) Supporting the Chairperson in all administrative roles.
- (c) Representing the interests of all Communities on the Students' Representative Council as an *ex officio* member.
- (d) The evaluation and monitoring of all Communities.
- (e) Meeting all their obligations and duties, as determined by the Executive Committee.
- (f) Appointing and performing oversight over all subcommittees created by the Executive Committee or the Prim Committee and appoints their chairpersons, subject to the procedures in addendum D.
- (g) The handling of any disciplinary matter within the Prim Committee.
- (h) The internal relations of the Prim Committee.
- (i) Nominating and submitting the list of candidates from which the delegates who represent the Prim Committee on institutional bodies are appointed, by either the Prim Committee or the Executive Committee – subject to the procedures in Addendum D.
- (j) Being the Caretaker of either Residences or PSOs and fulfilling all the duties necessary for that special representational capacity.
- (k) The transitional arrangements, alongside the Administrative Officer, between the outgoing Executive Committee and the newly elected Executive Committee."

Committees/Task Teams

In my capacity as Vice-Chairperson of the Prim Committee, I serve on the following Committees and/or Task Teams:

1) Institutional Forum (IF)

Per the SU Statute, the IF's core responsibility is to advise the Council on various matters, including the implementation of race and gender equality policies, the selection of candidates for senior management positions, the fostering of institutional culture which promotes respect for human rights and creates an appropriate environment for learning teach and research, etc. To that end, the IF also advises the Council on institutional transformation matters. The IF consists of 23 members,

comprised of representatives from the governance and management, staff, students and community sectors.

I was appointed by the Prim Committee to represent its interests on the IF. There was one meeting of the IF which took place on Tuesday, 9 May. AS the discussions at these meetings are confidential, I am unable to provide the contents of the meeting in this report. However, the meeting broadly covered the consideration of policy documents, including documents relating to employment equity, and discussions on the Rector and the SU Convocation.

2) Student Communities Advisory Committee (SCAC)

The SCAC, previously named the 'Student Housing Committee', serves as a platform where any matters concerning student communities are discussed. These include maintenance or upgrades to residence spaces, the construction of Cluster HUBs and the like. The committee is chaired by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Learning and Teaching, Prof Ramjugernath, and consists of various members from facilities management, finance department, SUNCOM, the Centre for Student Communities (CSC) and student leaders.

The SCAC had one meeting this term that took place on 12 April. The working group on the 60/40 residence placements presented its proposal to the SCAC. The proposal has the effect that no undergraduate residences, apart from Goldfields, will be impacted in the 2024 placement to ensure adequate time for consultation. It is envisaged that thorough consultation should take place from September 2023 - April 2024 in respect of the residence placements for 2025. The new residence spaces becoming available near Goldfields will in the meantime be utilised both for junior and senior residential purposes. The junior residence will form part of the Goldfields community. This proposal was to be referred to the rest of the Rectorate by Prof Ramjugernath. At the time of writing this report we are yet to receive feedback from the Rectorate on whether this proposal will be accepted and implemented.

3) Working group on 60/40 residence placements

The working group was established by the chairperson of the SCAC, Prof Deresh Ramjugernath, to look at proposals for implementing the Rectorate's decision to shift the ratio of men:women in undergraduate residence on Stellenbosch campus to a 60:40 ratio. The working group consists of representatives of all interested parties, including Division Student Affairs, Centre for Student Communities, Placement Office, Facilities Management, SUNCOM and the Prim Committee. I serve on the working group together with the Chair of the Prim Committee.

There was no meeting of the working group in this past term, but refer above to the SCAC meeting feedback of 12 April for the working group's proposal to the SCAC.

In my capacity as SRC member, I serve on the following committee(s):

1) **Senate**

Per the SU Statute, the Senate is responsible for the academic and research function of the University. The Senate regulate the learning, teaching, research and academic support functions at SU and makes recommendations to the Council in respect of policies concerning academic matters. The Senate is further empowered to advise the Council on various other academic matters. The Senate is chaired by the Rector, Prof Wim de Villiers, and is composed of the rectorate, the COO, various academic personnel, administrative and support staff, and student leaders from the SRC and AAC.

There was one Senate meeting during the second term in office which took place on 2 June 2023. As the agenda and contents of Senate meetings are confidential, I am unable to disclose the details of the meeting.

Term 3 Overview

The third term of every leadership term is always incredibly short and there is not a lot of time to hit all your objectives. As examinations creep closer, leaders' attention turn more towards their academics. In this instance, Prims also faced some fatigue following the 60/40 placement engagements that had to take place during the second term. However, the Prim Committee had a productive term and remained focused on the tasks at hand.

saam vorentoe · masiye phambili · forward together

1. PC Meeting with Stellenbosch Municipal Council

As has become a valuable tradition over the past, the Prim Committee once again had the opportunity to meet at the Stellenbosch Town Hall. The Chair and the Vice-Chair had the opportunity to engage with the Executive Mayor on a variety of issues facing students, whilst the rest of the Prim Committee had a meet and greet with the other members of the Stellenbosch Municipality ExCo. It was a lovely occasion to engage with the leaders of our municipality and we thank them for taking the time to meet with us. After the formalities the Prim Committee conducted a PC meeting in the Town Hall.

2. Prim Committee Task Teams

In terms of the PC Constitution, the Vice-Chairperson is responsible for setting up and overseeing task teams that aid the effective functioning of the Prim Committee. In accordance with these provisions, and after consultation with the Prim Committee Executive, we established the following task teams for 2023:

- Constitution Appraisal
- Crisis Management
- Student Wellness
- Finance

These task teams have been appointed in accordance with the PC Constitution and commenced its functions in February 2023. The following members were appointed as chairpersons of the task teams:

- **Constitution Appraisal:** Margeaux Wassenaar (Administrative Officer)
- **Crisis Management:** Erin Cameron (Aurora Prim)
- **Student Wellness:** Courtney de Klerk (Aristea Prim)
- **Finance:** John van Niekerk (Financial Manager)

The Prim Committee received feedback from the Constitution Appraisal, Crisis Management and Finance task teams at the first meeting of the term and the Prims had the opportunity to engage the chairs on their work done and plans for the rest of the term.

3. House Committee Dance

For the first time in several years, the Prim Committee hosted a dance for all house committee members. The event was well-attended and was a good opportunity for these leaders to interact in a much more social environment.

4. Connect 2023 Report

Following the feedback received from the Prims and house committee members, I compiled a detailed report containing their responses and numerical data pertaining to their satisfaction with Connect 2023. The report was presented to the Prim Committee at the final meeting of the term and the Prims were given an opportunity to give their inputs on the Report.

Plans for Next Term

The plans for the final leadership term are all geared towards handing over to the new leadership group and ensuring that all final matters to be addressed are taken care of.

1. PC Chair and Vice-Chair elections and handover

By far the most important aspect of the term is administering the elections of the new Chair and Vice-Chair, as well as compiling comprehensive handover reports coupled with an effective handover program. This will ensure the new Executive is able to hit the ground running. The elections are scheduled to take place on 1 August.

2. Task Teams

The Task Teams will wrap up their mandates and prepare comprehensive handover reports to the new Prim Committee Executive to be elected in August. The focal point in the handover is to ensure continuity in the task teams and that the momentum is carried over from year to year.

3. Connect 2023 feedback

Following some unhappiness on the part of Prims in respect of the logistics surrounding Connect 2023, the PC Exec sent out a MS Form to gauge the experience of student leaders so that we are able to take up the relevant concerns with the CSC. This report was finalised

saam vorentoe · masiye phambili · forward together

and initial engagement with the CSC has started. More formal engagements will still take place in the final term to ensure that recommendations are carried out..

SUBMITTED BY:



Rudi Claassen

Prim Committee Vice-Chairperson | Residence Representative
Students' Representative Council | Studenteraad | Ibhunga elimele abaFundi
+27 21 808 2757 | 3rd floor office, Neelsie Student Centre, 8 De Beer Rd, Stellenbosch
South Africa | Suid Afrika | Mzantsi Afrika
www.sun.ac.za/src | Instagram: @stellenbosch_src | Twitter: @stelliesSRC