



Stellenbosch

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SRC

Students' Representative Council
Ibhunga elimele abafundi
Studenteraad



SRC TERM I REPORT

SRC TRANSFORMATION MANAGER



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Abongile Quthu – SRC Transformation Manager – 23587091@sun.ac.za



Foreword

Molweni baFundi beDyunivesithi iStellenbosch,

My name is Abongile Quthu, the Transformation Manager of the Student Representative Council (SRC) of Stellenbosch University. Firstly, I would like to thank the SRC of SU for the opportunity to serve in their team aimed at creating an experiential, inclusive and accessible environment for the student community.

I am firm believer of the philosophy of “UBUNTU”, I pride myself by living my life to the values, ethos and expressions of “Ubuntu”, and I believe this is one of the drives behind my eagerness to be an SRC Manager, as to ensure that we approach our students with kindness, servitude, caress, excellent leadership and inclusivity.

Mine in the council is to champion for quality servitude to the student community, further by enhancing a culture of belonging and strive towards the grounds of not leaving any of our students behind. I pioneer for a society that stands with #OurVoicesEquateOurFreedom, and the cruciality of this movement is to ensure that our students proudly express themselves, exercise their rights and grow in SU.

Gugu Mona expresses that, “transformational leaders are like the roots of a tree. They may not be visible, but they keep the tree alive.” And my purpose in the SRC resonates with this quote, where my duty is to ensure we tackle the grassroot issues to ensure that our students experience amazing time in Stellenbosch.

The baton might be yours next time, make sure you follow the SRC.

Yours in transformation,

Abongile Quthu

Constitutional Responsibilities

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

- 1) Transformation does not have specific constitutional responsibilities outside of those stated in the Stellenbosch University (hereinafter SU) Student Constitution for the Stellenbosch Representative Council (hereinafter SRC) in its entirety. Chapter 3 (1) to act in the best interest of students and to actively promote students' rights under (11); (2) to represent students at – (a) the University Council; (b) the Senate; (c) the Institutional Forum; (d) other committees, bodies and functionaries of the University; and national and international student bodies; (3) to evaluate the University policy and give input in the formulation thereof; (4) to consider the advice of Student Parliament; (5) facilitate projects and initiatives to the benefit of students; and (6) to formulate and maintain policy to ensure that the SRC performs its functions and duties effectively.

Portfolio Overview

- 1) The purpose of SRC Transformation is to develop a varied student experience that best upholds justice and human dignity. The biggest accomplishment of change is a friendly campus that respects everyone's rights and recognizes the distinctions between people. The portfolio provides a deeper understanding of justice to the institution and the student body. It is because of this that prejudice is unacceptable in academic settings. The portfolio is a champion of equity for everybody. It gives people the chance to be treated with respect and without fear as fellow humans. All students on campus must be represented by the transformation manager. It aims to offer a learning environment that is inclusive of all students without discrimination.
- 2) The Transformation Manager must therefore close the gap by offering a universal experience that respects everyone's rights regardless of their language, gender, religion, social class, or political affiliation. The objective is to establish a setting where students will have the chance to learn from one another through embracing multiculturalism. The transformation goal is driven by justice and human dignity.

Committees/Task Teams

I serve on the following Committees and or Task Teams:

1. **Transformation and Critical Engagement Forum**

This forum equips House Committees with all the necessary tools so as to welcome student in a way where all students feel welcomed and valued in our institution. This is done through ResEd and critical engagements to ensure we equip our students with the environment of Stellenbosch University, and how we can best be champions of transformation.

2. **Student Institutional Transformation Committee**

This committee is chaired by the Transformation Manager, in this instance, Abongile Quthu, and the purpose of this committee is bring the student leaders together, and create a platform of developing and enhancing transformation in our institution.

3. **Institutional Transformation Committee**

The Institutional Transformation Committee (ITC) is a committee mandated by, and reporting to, the Rector's Management Team (RMT) on matters relating to transformation at our University. The ITC's role is to:

advance the implementation of the transformation imperatives provided by the Strategic Framework;

participate in drafting and regularly revising the SU Transformation Plan;

participate in drafting key performance areas and strategic management indicators for transformation;

monitor and report progress on realising our University's transformation imperatives;

propose interventions to help our University pursue its transformation imperatives; and

advise the Transformation Office, the Senior Director: Social Impact and Transformation, the Vice-Rector: Social Impact, Transformation & Personnel and the RMT on transformation matters.

4. **Division of Student Affairs Transformation Forum**

This forum is under the Division of Student Affairs, and it focuses on how we can create a transformative student experience for the student community.

Term I Overview

During my first term in office I have performed various activities, which will be stipulated below:

- As the Transformation Manager, I work closely with Shante Neff, in relation to how we can best have the voice of the students in matter of transformation to ensure that there is no student that experiences exclusion in this campus, further intensifying the importance of a transformative environment at Stellenbosch University. We meet on certain basis, where we discuss how we can collaborate and enhance a transformative student experience.
- I am also under the guidance of Mr Yeki Mosomothane, from Division of Student Affairs (DSAf), with regards to how their offices can provide support to the SRC, and how important it is to have the student voice in crucial sittings of Transformation within DSAf.
- I coordinated the Registration Champions, which was founded by the SRC in collaboration with EFFSC and SASCO to ensure that we champion in relations of inclusion for all our students, whether returning, or first year. This initiative was stationed in various aspects of our constituency, and my duty was to coordinate the Admin A process, where we welcomed first year students in our campus, and assisted them in various matters, such as “expired offers” “no offer as yet” and many other issues that occurred. The most plausible thing about this process, is that we were able to assist innumerable students to ensure that they proudly enter the gates of Stellenbosch University as students who uphold the ECARE values of the institution.
- I was also invited to the Siyakhula Live of MFM, to speak on the importance of ensuring a transformative student experience, and we were able to share our stance and purpose to the listeners.
- As stipulated in the constitutional responsibilities section above, I ensure that I follow up with many of our students which we have helped during this registration period. My duty is to evaluate how they are finding SU, and ensure that they report to our offices should there be any injustices that occur.
- During the year 2022, I had the opportunity to represent our SRC, with some of my elected colleagues, to ensure how we can best support each other as the institution of higher learning in South Africa. It is of the same breath that, the conference was an opportunity to express institutional grievances and share knowledge with South African Union of Students (SAUS), Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) and the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS).
- I also availed myself to participate in various platforms where the SRC was invited, as an action to include the student voice.

Plans for Next Term

I plan on doing the following:

After various consultations and moments of ideation, I have (some collaborative) came with the following plans:

- **SRC Check-In/Tracking Sessions** (This will be in collaboration with the Secretary-General of the SRC). The purpose of these sessions is to keep contact with all the students that the SRC has assisted with regards to readmission and registration process. We have seen the gap of creating a conducive environment for these students so that they keep in touch with us and share their experiences thus far with the academic year. This will be a platform to get together, share knowledge and advise where possible.
- **SRC Leadership Seminars** – the importance of this programme is to advance knowledge of students in relation to what the SRC is about and enhance the importance of students availing themselves for student leadership. This will also be an opportunity to groom and equip students with key aspects of leadership in a setting of higher education.
- **SRC Transformation and Glamour Hair Salon Collaboration** – This collaboration is focused at ensuring that the students experience a transformative beauty makeover on campus at an affordable price. This collaboration is aimed at ensuring that the services offered by the salon can be reached by all our students in our campus. More information will be shared in due time with regards to the processes of the collaboration
- **SRC WAQE and Transformation** – the collaboration is to ensure we promote gender equity on our campus. This will be through various activities that we will be activating to ensure that is a social justified campus that promotes equality.