



Stellenbosch

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SRC

Students' Representative Council
Ibhunga elimele abafundi
Studenteraad



SRC TERM I REPORT



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SRC SOCIAL IMPACT

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Foreword

Greetings Maties,

I would firstly like to thank everyone that played a role, participated and actively engaged in the SRC Elections. As the representative of the Social impact and Sustainability portfolios, I am thrilled and honoured to be able to use this incredible opportunity and platform to contribute impactful initiatives both on campus and within the greater community of the Western Cape. I look forward to engaging with all the potential collaborators and the student body as a whole during my term.

I am quite eager to introduce these projects that I have ideated, collaborated with and will be executing on campus and externally. I hope you will take the initiative of getting involved, educating each other on various crucial conversations based on these portfolios but most importantly, engaging in the various activities and events--old and new, that we will be reviving, delivering and availing to you on campus!

I intend on doing justice to both of these portfolios as they are essential to not only reviving and developing our humanity, as portrayed by the Social Impact portfolio, but also actively contributing and playing our role towards preserving the planet and securing our and the future generation's only natural source of life.

Constitutional Responsibilities

The Social impact portfolio focuses on initiating change on persons externally from registered students. The main role of this portfolio is organising SRC-specific social impact projects, incentivising, and improving student attendance for these projects. The delegated duties align within liaising with MGD on Student projects and coordinating with ex-officio student structures on the intended social impact projects.

The Student Constitution continues to highlight that as the representative of the social impact portfolio, I am required to:

- a) to fulfil my duties of submitting a complete report of my responsibilities and other activities to the Secretary after every academic term.
- b) Facilitate projects and initiatives to the benefit of students.
- c) Represent students at the university council, the senate, the institutional forum and other communities, structures and functionaries of the University.

Portfolio Overview

- 1) The Social Impact portfolio seeks to address and aid disadvantaged communities that can be uplifted through projects and initiatives implemented through this portfolio. It also recognizes and tackles the challenges in most communities in the Western Cape that are caused by the imbalances of the past and the inequalities that continue to affect the province's minority across various socio-economic factors.

The aimed vision for 2023 is as follows:

Creating impactful change across various disadvantaged communities through collaboration and liaising with internal and external structures across the Western Cape. The main target being, aiding and reviving the core communities that lack the resources to uplift its people and overall environment.

Mission: Uplifting and reviving the sense of community in the Western Cape through student-led initiatives and raising socially accountable change makers through our projects.

Committees/Task Teams

I serve on the following Committees and/or Task Teams:

Social Impact Committee:

The Division for Social Impact (DSI) serves as SU's first point of reference for staff, students and partners wanting to engage in Social Impact. The DSI does not run initiatives but instead, it provides advice, guidance, support and facilitates engagement. This committee is chaired by Nico Koopman and I serve this committee as the SRC's Social Impact representative.

During our scheduled meetings, we'd discuss proposals, updates, presentations, the promotion and recognition of social impact in the university faculties and communities in and around Stellenbosch, including student engagements within social impact initiatives.

SU Co-curricular support fund:

Stellenbosch University's Co-Curricular Support Fund (SUCSF/USKOF) is administered by the Division Student Affairs and is a student bursary fund for national, international, and online co-curricular events and courses.

During this first term, I have not attended any USKOF meeting as they will only begin from next month.

Registration task team

Prior the welcoming and registration period, I volunteered myself to assisting with accommodation and the Backpackers initiative. I began this designation from the 21st of January until the end of the first week of classes.

ACCOMODATION

During this period, some of my colleagues and I assisted students with residence placements where we placed any student that required this assistance but priority was given on the basis

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and criteria in which we were instructed (the percentage of their Matric certificate average and the regional distance from their home address to campus). However, we did not hold any authority of placing students, but our responsibilities and duties included capturing the student's details and entering them on our accommodation list which access was granted to the relevant University admin and they would proceed from that point to placing the students.

This accommodation waitlist was made available to:

1. Juniors (<21 years old)
2. Seniors (21 years to <25 years)
3. Returning Senior students (21 years to <25 years)

BACKPACKERS

This initiative included arranging on campus emergency temporary accommodation for newcomer first year students that arrived to campus with all of their belongings but did not have accommodation or anywhere in which they could spend the night. This emergency accommodation was for a maximum of 48 hours and did not guarantee permanent accommodation, but it did provide the students with the opportunity of being prioritised on the accommodation waitlist.

This initiative came with various challenges especially when the spaces started overcrowding and we were faced with a number of seniors without accommodation as they could not be placed on the Backpackers due to the fact that it was availed to first year newcomers only. However, we were able to arrange an extension for the newcomers during their stay and we also found a separate accommodation for seniors who also required the emergency accommodation.

Term I Overview

During my first term in office, I liaised with then Division of Social Impact and further ideated projects with various other structures such as MGD and other student organisations in which I will be collaborating with during my term. Furthermore, I engaged with the *Social Impact leaders 2022/2023*, an organized structure of all student community Social Impact leaders within residences and PSOs on campus. During these engagements, we participated in

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meetings where we were introduced to the DSI structure and were guided through the initial ways in which we can engage and implement our projects within our communities on campus. Additionally, I attended numerous one-on-one meetings with the Senior Programme Manager of Social Impact from MGD, Mrs. Michelle Pietersen, where we discussed projects in which I intend on implementing and discussed potential collaborators. Finally, I was then able to draft and draw up my Social Impact initiatives for the intended projects within this portfolio.

I duly attended the Social Impact Morning this term with the Division of Social Impact where we travelled across campus in order to participate in the various initiatives in which the Social Impact Leaders of different residences and PSOs executed during their SI Morning plans. We attended these events at Harmonie, Monica, Aurora and various other residences, PSOs and communities that were off campus such as visiting a preschool in Idasvallei with Erica where we interacted with the children, the student volunteers and the pre-school facilitators. Some of these on campus communities included a collaboration initiative with the Rise against Hunger Africa organisation where the students involved were arranging boxes of necessities in which were being donated to the disadvantaged.

Plans for the next Term.

1. **“Today a reader, tomorrow a leader”- read to succeed initiative:** This project is an external initiative in which we will be visiting disadvantaged schools that do not have adequate resources, efficient staff and reading materials. We will be donating such resources and volunteering to assist students with their literacy skills and overall aiding the students wherever possible within our capacity.
2. **“Children of tomorrow” drive:** This initiative aims towards implementing a drive for a children's home where we will be donating our proceedings, spend the day with the children and initiating activities and entertainment for them.

