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| **Portfolio:** | Chairperson |
| **Subject:** | Term 4 report  |
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Constitutional Responsibilities

According to S.22 of the Student Constitution of 2018, the chairperson is the chief executive officer of the SRC, act as spokesperson for the SRC, is ultimately responsible for the finances of the SRC and ensures that the SRC fulfill their mandate.

Portfolio Overview In terms of:

SRC

The portfolio of chairperson is responsible to bring a group of diverse leaders together and channel their energy and skills to successfully achieve the mandate of the SRC. Chairperson is responsible to ensure that words becomes actions and support members where possible to ensure execution. The chairperson acts as custodian of the Student Constitution. The chairperson acts as spokesperson for the SRC and the students the SRC represents.

Stellenbosch University

The chairperson is a direct line of contact and information for staff and management in the university. Although the chairperson is the students’ representative, the chairperson is also a representative of the larger Stellenbosch University. The chairperson’s mandate is to ensure that the needs of students are placed first in the university and works in collaboration with different stakeholders such as SU Staff, the municipality, other universities etc.

South Africa

The chairperson’s role in terms of South Africa is to act as custodian of the South African Constitution, on ground level at Stellenbosch University. Together with the SRC as a team, the chairperson must drive a vision & mission that are conscious of South Africa’s diverse cultural heritage and the historical context of Stellenbosch University and work hard to unite to build a multicultural and democratic South Africa. As the Student Constitution of 2018’s preamble states: “We acknowledge our responsibility to participate in the democratic structures recognised by this Constitution. Subject to the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, the Higher Education Act, the Statute of Stellenbosch University and University regulations, we accept this as our binding Constitution.”

Committees / Task Teams USKOF

Institutional Council (2020)

SUNCOM Advisory Committee

Institutional Committee for Business Continuity (ICBC) Student Affairs Business Continuity Sub-Committee

Other Committees / Task Teams SRC Executive Committee

Anti-GBV Working Group on Safety and Security

Barriers to study at home

Budget Overview

I did not use much of my budget throughout my term because of online working. I spent a total of approximately R7000 and most of it went to transport to our campuses and in the fourth term, delivery of food parcels.

Term Overview

**General**

The term was as busy as I expected it to be. The fuel tank of the team was running low as fatigue started to kick in. Due to the predicaments brought about by Covid-19, I had a lot of meetings and SRC commitments to attend to, during the break before the fourth term hence I didn’t really feel the difference between Term 3 and Term 4. It is important to note that the holiday was cut short because timetables had to be adjusted as students had lost a lot of learning time. The main goal was to ensure that I dealt with further matters that students were experiencing due to the sudden shift to Online learning. I managed to do this with the help of my hardworking team. A lot of students, including student leaders were going through a lot (in terms of their mental health). We had to ensure that the needs of the students that remained on campus were met. There was one big challenge we had to deal with; some students who went home when the first lockdown started weren’t finding it easy to work from home due to various reasons. I sat in the “Barriers to study at home” Committee and we ensured that we got most of those students back on campus and provided support were necessary. Fourth term is the last SRC term and I had to ensure that I wrap around the work that I was doing as well as encouraging other members to do the same thing.

**Spokesperson of the SRC**

Part of my constitutional mandate as the chairperson was the privilege to be the spokesperson of the council and the student body at large. I ensured that I represented the views of the council and not my personal views. I was in contact with various news journalists and I established a very good relationship between the MatieMedia (run by our honours journalism students). This relationship ensured that the voice of the SRC was amplified amongst students and MatieMedia Journalists got more experience along the way.

**Finances of the SRC**

We had pending budget issues from the previous terms and in Term 4 the main goal was to ensure that all financial issues were resolved and all financial obligations settled. We finalized the subsidy to the Societies Council. The final part of the term was working with the Treasurer to figure out what we have left in our budget and ensuring that we deal with issues like student-funding with the SRC Executive so that the next SRC won’t face big challenges.

**Institutional Committee for Business Committee (ICBC)**

During the term 4, I served on the Communications, Community Impact, and External Relations Work Stream of the ICBC. We planned out different scenarios of the COVID-19 pandemic and the implications the levels would have on the university. The the main goal was to ensure business continuity under the COVID circumstances. We were also focused on supporting the local community as well as making sure that the communication that was sent to students during this time was timely, handy and not to cause any panic amongst the student body.

**Elections**

As I mentioned in my term 3 report, it was my intention and goal to ensure that elections would run smoothly in the 3rd term and there would be a smooth transition and a handover of power. I was in contact with one of the election conveners and I gave the team as much support as I could and sat on the committees to review applications that weren’t successful on the initial round. Elections happened successfully online and our Vice Chair ensured that they ran smoothly.

**Food security**

There was an issue of students struggling with food security when the offices were closed due to the lockdown regulations. I worked with the Social Worker to facilitate the process and I was liaising with PSOs through Mike Burke and had direct contact with students to deliver them food parcels.

**Fundraising projects and #Action4Inclusion**

I had meetings with the Development and Alumni relations office as well as the Social Justice Chair at SU to initiate plans for fundraising activities which would be aimed to assist in easing historical debt amongst students.

**Council**

I was sitting on the Council with Ingrid and the biggest issues that we dealt with this year were to make important decisions with regards to COVID-19. The Council also ratified some decisions that were taken by various structures during the pandemic to ensure business continuity. More on the decisions taken by the council can be found on (sun.ac.za).

**Barriers to study at home**

This committee was instituted to assist students who were finding it difficult to work from home. Initially we were sitting two times a week and as we dealt with most of the students, we started to sit once a week. Residence heads would present the students who applied, and we would review the applications and invite the students back to campus.

Recommendations for Portfolio Improvement

A balance is very necessary on the Chairperson’s role. It is extremely difficult to balance the outside and the internal affairs of the team. You will have a lot of meetings and they will take time out if your academics. What can keep you floating is good relationships with people and finding a support structure. The role gets overwhelming at times, but you should always remind yourself that you can’t do everything on your own (That’s where the power of delegation comes in). Also, be in a good relationship with the rest of the team so that you can be impartial within your role as Chairperson. Tolerance is very much needed as you will be leading a very diverse team with different ideologies. Always make decisions that will be in the best interest of the students. Student governance is of paramount importance within your role as Chairperson. Always seek their guidance, they are always there to assist you and make you a better leader. It is important to conclude your budgets very early in the term and whenever you see members not working well together, immediately seek mediation for the members because the rift is uncontrollable. Most of all, you should be able to give yourself grace as a leader. Talk to someone when you need to, ask for help if you can’t do it on your own and don’t be scared of showing vulnerability. Lead with grace!!

Important Contacts*.*

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