Report

I have been working with the Transformation officer coordinator, and the director of social impact to best resolve some of the challenges that come to our attention as the SRC. I have also been working with my team- Zizo Vokwana, Norma Zikalala and Nikie Ndlela. We have been trying to do our best to make sure that students do not feel violated by the online system program.

When our institution took a decision to introduce remote learning and suspend hemis for this year due to covid-19, many students were worried about their bursaries. Many had great complained because this decision would impact their financial assistance requirements for the year 2021. Many came forward to engage us on this matter. I raised the matter with the SRC, and we took a decision to write to the bursary offices and inquire regarding majors that can help students not to be financially excluded in 2021. Brandon was also offered a responsibility to take the matter further to the RMT meeting with SRC executive.

As a team, we engaged on several matters that we thought that were important to be addressed with the university management. This included helping the institution to consider the environments that students will be working on. As a result, I took it upon myself to forward some of the information that students needed clarity on. This included emergency inquiries that the institution would not respond to as soon as possible due to the Covid-19 challenge. With the great help of the academic affairs chairperson, we managed to make follow ups on matters where students could not be assisted in time. This was because everyone within the institution stuff members was trying hard to best do their work and on the other hand there was pressure from the students to get things done. We worked altogether as a team and try find solutions to the matters that were challenging students.

With everything moving online. I have been in great communication and working relationship with the transformation office. By this we managed to organise few online events that we thought that were necessary to be hosted online. We have collaborated with other SRC members who availed themselves such as the Deputy Chairperson, chairperson, treasurer, wellness and awareness and other managers. We worked out documents to prepare for online events and campaigns. Like any other thing in the world, somethings we will do them well and some we will lose. We however had a great plan that we are still onto. We had a problem with access to our Social media accounts. This was caused by the different challenges that we face as students’ leaders. We tried to have everyone on board including the communication officer. I strongly believe that we have done our duties. Other events were successful and hope that even the incoming ones will be too.

We have also forwarded some work that we are still wishing to be assisted with by the policy officer. We would like to have the Special Needs portfolio as a mandatory portfolio within the SRC or an Ex-officio structure if possible. All this can be done through the guidance of the policy officer. We have collaborated with the special needs manager and everyone who was available to best think this through. We have also taken the matter to the SRC and chairperson have promised to handle the matter. We also requested that it would be very progressive for the institution to have the special needs portfolios in all faculties and residences. This is to best help bring awareness about the realities of the world. We have also engaged with the gender portfolio manager regarding the need for gender portfolios in all residences of the institution. By this we best think that matters of gender-based violence can be best addressed within residences.

Nsfas have been a great problem like always. Most students have been bringing their inquiries to us and challenges that they face due to late payments. We have been sending them to the centre of student counselling and development for assistance from the social workers. Mental health has also been a challenge and the circumstances that students are working in at home. We have therefore saw a need to inspire most students who happen to speak with us to also seek for psychological assistance or to reach out to the office in order to best protect their mental health.

I have also been involved in several discussions surrounding Gender Based Violence. This include the task team that was established by Dr Choice. I have engaged my participation within the task team on the previous report. I continued with my task as expected.