



SRC 2020/2021 Term I Report

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Constitutional Responsibilities

The Senior Prim Committee (SPC) portfolio on the Student Representative Council (SRC) is the constitutional mandate of the SPC Chairperson, as per Chapter 8 of the Student Constitution and it's chairperson is an *ex officio* member on the SRC. The Senior Prim Committee has a constitutional mandate to actively promote the rights of students contained in Chapter 2 of the Student Constitution, and specifically the right, under section 8 (1), to an enabling campus environment in which student success and academic excellence are encouraged and pursued.

Portfolio Overview

The Senior Prim Committee consists of a Chair, a Vice-Chair, and the Prim, or their nominee, of each senior residence, as well as any other members that are provided for in the constitution of the Senior Prim Committee.

The SPC Chairperson represents the Primarii/Head Student Leader or nominee of a senior residence, namely LLL, The Village, Huis Russel Botman, Concordia, Lobelia, Huis de Villiers and Huis MacDonald. The committee by extension, represents the student leaders as well as all the students within senior residences.

The SPC has a direct link between the student leaders on campus and the Student Representative Council as well as other structures at Stellenbosch University such as the Centre of Student Communities (CSC).





Committees / Task Teams

A Constitutional Task Team will be set-up and led by the Vice-Chair of the SPC that will;

- 1) Reviewing constitutions that exist in senior residences and recommending improvements.
- 2) Establishing a process to draw up constitutions for a number of senior residences that don't have any.
- 3) Starting the constitutional amendment process for the SPC's own constitution which is unnecessarily cumbersome and complicated.

Term Overview

The first term of the SPC 2020/21 included scheduling the first sitting once all students leadership elections were finalized in senior residences. This was achieved with the exception of the LLL program which appoints interns later in the year once their recruitment process is finalized.

A meeting was scheduled with the Centre of Student Communities to introduce our committee members with the entirety of the team at the CSC, brief them on our plans for our term and outline our expectations from the centre.

A brief session was organized to lay out what are the weaknesses in senior residences from outgoing Prims and to find out what incoming Prims expected from the work of the committee. This initiated the process of the planning for the term and what needed to be achieved. Most the issues brought up were institutional, training related and information on the role of senior residences as it is so vague with no guiding documents for incoming leadership which creates an atmosphere of confusion and blurring on lines with senior leadership and Res Heads.

It was decided that welcoming needs to be more collaborative between residences and have compulsory component that tackles recurring res-based issues. Greater collaboration between the SLS Cluster will help make sure that there is synergy.

Plans for next term

Working with the Multicultural Education Coordinator at the Centre of Student Communities (CSC), we hope to launch the senior leadership develop programmes for co-curricular recognition and to benefit capacity buildings of leadership skills in senior residences. Conversations of some sort of mentoring is due to be held too as this hasn't been implemented as there historically has been no appetite for this sort of programme.

Training will be rolled out for all our leaders with institutional partners and to help build a unified vision for each residence for their upcoming term.

Planning and implementation of the 2021 Welcoming Programme will be finalized with the residences and SLS Cluster Convenors as soon as the Welcoming Guidelines are finalized by the CSC.





The Vice-Chairperson is also serving on an CSC committee exploring the creation of senior PSOs which are not 'armed'. The .NET program is what the new PSOs will be called to avoid the expectation that it will be a PSO.

Recommendations to improve portfolio

Stronger links, mandate, training and Res Education is needed from the Centre of Student Communities. Right now a lack of vision, ownership and institutional plan by the Centre of Student Communities (CSC) hinders the potential of the Senior Prim Committee. Communication is rare from CSC to the SPC even though that is responsible body of SPC, it seems there is an inertia to acknowledge and accept this. A meeting at the beginning of our term was held with stakeholders from the CSC to address this issues however the issues still persist.

A number of core and necessary development programmes are absent from the CSC that are geared at leadership development and formalization of the senior residence leadership spaces.

- 1) A leadership development plan for senior leaders doesn't exist in the co-curricular handbook however we've had strong engagements on piloting one this year with Multicultural Education Coordinator.
- 2) A Senior Prim leadership development plan should also be introduced to address a lot of issues that Prims/House Leaders have about their role and the role of the res head.
- 3) There should be at least one compulsory ResEd Programme in senior residences as a condition if accepting your stay. Themes that could be explored are GBV, Life after Study etc.
- 4) A weakness identified by SLS Cluster Convenors last year was the slow elections of senior residences which hampered the progress of new leadership terms. This has largely been resolved this year, with only the LLL interns being appointed out of the September yearly elections cycle.

Student Governance has played a greater collaborative role with the SPC to assist with administrative duties and ongoing direction with campus developments in the upcoming academic year.

Important Contacts

Noel Bekkers noelbek@sun.ac.za ResEd Group Coordinator – Senior Living Spaces

Enos Lekala enos@sun.ac.za LLL Coordinator and Huis Russel Botman Res Head

