



SRC 2020/2021 Term I Report

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TYGERBERG STUDENT COUNCIL
Universiteit Stellenbosch

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Term Feedback

September

- TSR inauguration- This was part of my duties as the previous TSR vice-chairperson. This involved planning the event virtually, recruiting a guest speaker, coordinating a gift for the guest speaker, collecting TSR photos for the memories slideshow and coordinating the oath taking section of the inauguration.
- Recruiting student leaders to sit on certain committees. With the change of student leadership terms, the previous student leaders no longer sit on certain committees anymore. Their roles needed to be replaced by the new TSR members and it was my duty to provide the names of the TSR members who would sit on those new committees. This included the Advisory committee for Tygerberg Student Affairs, The FMHS Health Committee, The DACT and the DSAF transformation charter sub-comm.
- Interview with Sue Sugar for FMHS website explaining my vision for the year as TSR chairperson.
- Cluster oath-taking- I attended this ceremony as the TSR to acknowledge the oath taking by the house committees of the Tygerberg cluster. This was a very heart-warming event as the HKs really do so much for our Tygerberg Students.
- Managing emergencies- I attended this virtual training on “Let’s talk managing emergencies” by Dr Munita Dunn-Coetzee which was very informative.
- TSR/DMT introduction- We held this event in September just for the DMT to meet the new TSR and to learn about our new portfolio changes and just to meet the TSR. It is important for us to meet with the DMT regularly to ensure good reasons between the Student representatives (TSR) and the faculty management.
- I was involved with the TSR evaluations as part of my duties as the previous TSR Vice-chairperson
- September was also the month where we had our Student Governance training sessions and set our vision and mission for the year as the new TSR.

October

- ICBC trainings for student leaders





- I attended bi-weekly Undergraduate academic check-in meetings to provide the perspective of the students in the academic planning for 2021.
- Recorded a video for the “Maties 101” recruitment process to retain the selected applicants to the FMHS to show them that this is the institution they should choose, speaking about the Role of the TSR.
- Khayelitsha Theft incident- Students were robbed at knife and gunpoint on their way to Khayelitsha hospital and the TSR assisted in getting support for the students who had been traumatized by that event as well as getting support for students who have lost/ had their belongings stolen from them in this incident.
- Portfolio manager interviews- The TSR exec sat and chose 5 new portfolio managers for 2020/2021
- I attended a Faculty Board meeting in my capacity as TSR chair.
- Year plan and budget setting- This was a major portion of our time as the TSR exec in October, November and even December. Finalizing the budget to ensure fairness and sustainability was our priority.
- Annual conversation- I attended the annual conversation of Hippokrates but I could not attend the others.
- Registration workshops planned by student governance. Very unhelpful and a Tygerberg specific registration “meeting” with Farah and her team would have been more fruitful for us.

November

- DACT meeting- Several issues regarding the work of the equality unit were raised and a subsequent meeting was held.
- Equality unit meeting held- Follow up in Feb.
- Action for inclusion- I joined the hike with the previous SRC chairperson, Prof Thuli Madonsela and the TSR transformation officer, Viwe Kobokana in hiking up Table Mountain to raise funds for students with historical debt.
- DSAF anti-GBV steering committee- this committee held its first meeting in November to discuss their terms of reference and the scope of the work that they would do as a steering committee. This will continue in 2021 and I will continue to represent the voice of the Tygerberg Students.
- A second DMT meeting was held in November where we discussed the possibility of having an open door/lunchtime chat slot with the DMT to be made available for students to be able to talk “more freely” to the Faculty management. Follow to occur in 2021.
- 2021 return to campus support queries- responded to an email regarding which services students would need to be available to be resumed as soon as students return to campus 4 January. This did not prevent the chaos of the first day however and students remained frustrated that the management did not seem “prepared” to have students come back to campus.
- TSR evening proposal- drafted a new shuttle proposal just for the evenings and sent it off to Dr Choice who gave a positive response early December. This proposal is intended to mimic the service provided by the Stellenbosch campus for their students in the evenings.

December

- MB, ChB VI pledge ceremony issues. Worked with prof blitz to solve the issues of final year medical students being SEEMINGLY discriminated against because they had a supp and therefore could not attend the pledge ceremony, however the pledge ceremony was anyway converted to a virtual platform due to the 2nd wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.





- Adjusted level 3 and return to campus- several issues arose with the last-minute communication from faculty (3 days after the level 3 announcement) and student communities telling students who had flights and buses pre-booked not to come back to campus due to the adjusted level 3 restrictions. This caused lots of distress amongst the students but through advocacy we managed to ensure an amicable situation for all, and no student was denied access back to res provided they adhered to the strict COVID-19 protocols set out by student communities.
- Register all- Worked very closely with the SRC to ensure Tygerberg students can benefit from the SRC register all campaign and to avoid any registration issues which could hinder their dreams.

Term Reflection

The first quarter of my term as TSR chairperson was not without challenges but was also really rewarding. I did not find the transition to being the chairperson difficult as I was the previous vice chairperson, so it felt like a natural continuation of the duties I had last year as I worked very closely with the previous chairperson. I also really enjoyed getting to know my new team, even if it was virtual. A big part of my job that I was not prepared for was being a part of the SRC. It initially made my work feel “double” but soon I realized what an incredible privilege it was to sit on the SRC to bring the perspectives of our Tygerberg students and to ensure they are not being left out of important conversations. As I step into the new quarter, I have learnt that it is important not to take on tasks that are not your own as the chairperson. It is important to allow for delegation. I have also learnt that if management asks for an opinion on behalf of the students, it is important to consult with your team before making rash decisions and it is important to remember that your job is to be a STUDENT representative, you do not have to be the mouthpiece for the faculty. Your job is to keep the interests of the students in mind first, always. There are many lessons I have learnt from my first term as the TSR chair and I hope to continue learning as the leadership term proceeds.

