



SRC 2020/2021 Term 2 Report

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Constitutional Responsibilities

As the Prim Committee's Vice-Chair and having been assigned the responsibilities of the committee's Residence Chair, I am mandated to represent the Residence communities on the PC's Executive Committee, the SRC and other bodies and/or teams I form part of in this capacity. In the spirit of the previous term's PC Residence and PSO chairs to operate as co-chairs, both myself and the PC Chair take equal responsibility for our respective constituencies as well as the PC as a whole.

A primary, mandatory goal of my position is the personal and leadership development of Residence Primarii to benefit overall community-building in our private student structures. This is done both informally on a relational basis with the leaders, as well as at structured developmental interactions such as POP's Camp, a platform for Residence and PSO Primarii and Vice Primarii to engage collaboratively with community-specific and campus-related issues in order to develop leadership abilities.

The key responsibilities of the Residence Chair include the following:

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- Planning and attending biweekly PC Meetings,
- Offering support at biweekly Prim Development Programme (PDP) sessions,
- Participation in various committees including the MAK, SHK, Welcoming Program Committee, and SRC,
- Biweekly meetings with the PSO Office,
- Regular meetings with SSG directors,
- PC Executive committee participation, and
- Planning of various developmental opportunities for Primarii.

The role of an ex-officio SRC member in this context is fulfilled through active participation in the body and accurate representation of the Residence constituency. A trusted and reliable link of information and representation between the Residence structures and the SRC are formed through my role's position on the SRC.

I have thus far fulfilled my mandate regarding SRC meeting attendance.

Portfolio Overview

1. The SRC

The SRC being the highest structure of student representation in the university, is comprised of members that thus represent their constituencies in such a structure. With this comes the responsibility of true and accurate constituent representation, valuable thought leadership, and an honest humility to gauge between the two. Practically, I achieve this through sound communication and trust between my affiliates on the SRC and the Residence Primarii whom I represent on the body. This allows for a clearer expression of student needs that can reach the agenda of the SRC, and a consequentially clearer response to the student body situated in Residence accommodation.

2. Stellenbosch University

My position affords me opportunity to represent my constituency on various management structures and committees, which is a crucial aspect of the position. It is often that a case needs to be made to university management for a particular desire of my constituency, which introduces a negotiative element to the job description which becomes particularly consequential when the debate is of budgetary or even ideological nature.

The constructive nature of the co-curricular space is detrimental to the success of students and fundamental to the offering of Stellenbosch University and thus my primary responsibility would be to facilitate the symbiotic culture that is required on campus and in

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residence in order for students to experience growth and development in a space that caters for their safety.

3. South Africa

The foundational mandate of a positional student leader representing communities is that of community building. The legacy of our country, the preamble of its constitution, and the inclusion of student leadership, namely the SRC, in the DHET's requirements of South African universities, all promote an idea that student leadership should be an honourable pursuit that aims to promote a thriving community experience in education for all. This describes the ethos for which I define my portfolio in the context of South Africa.

Committees / Task Teams

Institutional

Student Housing Committee (SHK) – Chiefly oversees physical developmental affairs of student housing on campus. It is chaired by the Vice-Rector of Teaching and Learning and is further comprised of the PK Chair and Vice-Chair, the Directors of Project Management, CSC, *Toelating en Koshuisplasing*, as well as the Senior Directors of SU International, SunKom, Student Affairs and Student Access.

Monitors Advies Komitee (MAK) – Receives and acts upon information provided by the monitors program during the welcoming period in order to compile an annual Monitor's Report to report on and align communities' welcoming practices. The committee was comprised of the PK Chair and Vice-Chair, Pieter Kloppers (Director of CSC), Monica du Toit (Res-ed Coordinator: Victoria Cluster), JC Rademeyer, Kristan Sharpley, Martin Viljoen, Jonathan Arries, and was chaired by Prof DX Simon.

Welcoming Program Committee – Amalgamates the annual Welcoming Program's stakeholders across the University's structures.

Other Committees / Task Teams

PC Executive – Oversees the strategic planning of the Prim Committee and is comprised of the PC Chair and Vice-Chair, the PC's treasurer, the PC's secretary (Yanga Keva), the external Cluster Convenor and the Tygerberg PC Chair.

Honoraria Task Team - Subcategory of the SRC (task team under SRC structure) in which the discussion follows (re)structuring of all student leadership compensation under the Stellenbosch University structure.

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Primm Committee Policy Forum - In this policy forum the prims are given a short overview of what it means to effectively rewrite their house constitutions. These meetings are chaired by the Prim Committee secretary. The Chair and Vice chair in this case serve an enquiring and advisory role to the Secretary, therefore only used for consultation purposes.

Term Overview

This term has been plagued by the passing of a fellow SRC member which has reminded us all of the grim reality that life is precious. Followed by the increased awareness of mental health and admitted attendance towards caring for one another and available for one another during all times, both fruitful and grieving. This allows for us as a community, the student body, to be more real and vulnerable towards our students needs outside of the academic sphere. The hope is that this would allow for the transformation of the culture of the leadership of Stellenbosch University. For the future bodies of students to be more compassionate towards their fellow students, a significant mark in the development of culture amongst students, though be it a bitter event, we cannot avoid the significance of facing life and all of its realities.

Furthermore, the SRC faced the nationwide registration crisis this term, this was led by the Financial Inclusion SRC member and the SRC Chairperson, however the majority of SRC including myself was present for discussion on moving forward with the student crisis. The outcome was that we decided to fund students debt rather than clear debt restrictions. The rationale for this decision was that we deemed it in the students best interest to register without debt rather than register with accumulating debt. There was controversy amongst some students with regards to the time it took to register students and clear debt, however this could have been deterred with better communication throughout the council and amongst student representatives.

The SRC further went on our annual camp this term along with a visit to the military campus. Overall a very fruitful meeting during which we got to know each other better and learned to work with one-another's strength and around one-another's weaknesses.

From the Primm Committee this term signified the finalisation of the welcoming program which ended successfully. All meetings took place as scheduled and several initiatives were started to be taken forward. Much frustration came from the communities with the lack of seriousness in some students to take seriously the regulations regarding Covid-19 as well as the alcohol policy. Furthermore, the development of cultures within communities, it is with great regret that some communities have not followed development and transformation efforts to which they have committed in the past. It has thus dawned on me that we need to align efforts of transformation within a community setting as well as a personal setting, for all communities

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and all individuals. This will involve nothing more or less than self-searching and peer reviewing one-another for practical flaws that impede the collectively and unity of a society that is Stellenbosch University and the future of this country.

Other initiatives were made but not deemed significant for this report. Core issues concerned are policy and constitutional reviews which forms part of the legislative branch of development and transformation, this is an exiting development for this body.

A discussion was engaged on with regards to the development of the ResEd program. The program is due for reform in a levelled manner to account for the development of students and to take this development into account when providing training and guidance for a student, thus to avoid the trainings becoming redundant.

Budget

None

Budget & Reasoning

None

Expenditure so far

None

Plans for next term

The next term will include the election of a new chair and vice chair, the community elections and the hand over process. The final conversation on the ResEd trainings will also take place as a consultative manner.

Recommendations to improve portfolio

This portfolio could benefit from the establishment of a residence task team which would involve addressing residence strategy planning – not operational in nature. This task team would ideally include residence prims to discuss key strategic issues regarding residences such as impediments to: future operations, significance in student development and foundations for flexibility and inclusivity. Additively we need to ensure that such a committee can have access, consultatively, to whatever resources they require, be it students and management.

This would allow for the residence inclusion into strategic planning of the community in consultation with other communities, not in isolation. The biggest threat to the significance of

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residences is the persistence to plan in isolation, it is in my opinion that the annual discussions are not effective as a once of structure as it functions more as a report on the happenings and the state of the res and not a discussion on moving forward and how to face or address the future.

Important Contacts

- Pieter Kloppers (SSG Director): pwk@sun.ac.za
- Gareth Cornelissen (SSG Deputy Director): gmc@sun.ac.za
- Yeki Mosomothane (SSG: Multicultural Coordinator): yekim@sun.ac.za
- Dr Makhetha (Student Affairs Senior Director): choicemakhetha@sun.ac.za
- Dr Celeste Nel (Admission and Placement Director): cswan@sun.ac.za
- Anele Mdepa (Student Governance Manager): anelemdepa@sun.ac.za