



SRC 2020/2021 Term 3 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.

Primm Committee Policy Forum - In this policy forum the primms are given a short overview of what it means to effectively rewrite their house constitutions. These meetings are chaired

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by the Prim Committee secretary. The Chair and Vice chair in this case serve and enquiring and advisory role to the Secretary, therefore only used for consultation purposes.

Term Overview

This term has been characterised by being short as it was practically one month, the month of May. The months of June and July were both academically and holiday orientated amongst the country being upheaved, once again we did not experience rest during our term on SRC office.

During the month of May I attended my bare minimum of Vice Chair duties as I had academic deadlines present. During this time I attended and reflected on my SRC term and PK term whilst attending all my meetings and engaged further in conversations with the student housing committee about the facilitation of a well rounded student experience by including hubs as well as the financial benefit of an increased student experience. This role of leadership has become very similar to management, especially when many of the decisions you make are driven by finances.

Although this may not be a bad thing. The exposure student leaders have to financial planning and budgeting gives us good experience with what we certainly will face one day be it at our work place or in our household and that is a budget. This will only become an issue when we as leaders loose track of the needs of the students we serve, this is commonly the fear when we view student leaders as quasi-management.

When we as student use management skills and practises to solve student issues however, we fulfil the shortcomings of management and the needs of students. A good space for this to be exercised in would be the mental health sphere.

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

A consolidated effort from student leaders across the board need to access managements decision towards the lack of mental health support of students. These students are the people who this country depends on to solve the issues in our society. It is our duty as student leaders to service these students by giving them access to facilities which would allow them to perform on a sustainable level. This will require an extensive problem definition which would elaborate on what extent of a solution is required (how many facilities to be provided and what type) and an implementation plan (who is going to pay for it, to what extent can it be implemented).

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