



SRC 2020/2021 Term 3 Report

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Contents

Constitutional Responsibilities	1
Portfolio Overview.....	1
Committees / Task Teams	2
Term Overview.....	2
Budget.....	3
Budget & Reasoning.....	3
Expenditure so far.....	4
Plans for next term	4
Recommendations to improve portfolio	5
Important Contacts.....	5

Constitutional Responsibilities

Transformation does not have specific constitutional responsibilities outside of those stated in the SU Student Constitution for the SRC in its entirety. Chapter 3 (1) to act in the best interest of students and to actively promote students' rights under (1) to (7); (2) to represent students at – (a) the University Council; (b) the Senate; (c) the Institutional Forum; (d) other committees, bodies and functionaries of the University; and (e) national and international student bodies; (3) to evaluate the University policy and give input in the formulation thereof; (4) to consider the advice of Student Parliament; (5) facilitate projects and initiatives to the benefit of students; (6) to facilitate projects and initiatives to the benefit of students; and (7) to formulate and maintain policy in order to ensure that the Student Representative Council performs its functions and duties effectively.

Portfolio Overview

SRC Transformation's role is to create a diverse student experience that will best promote human dignity and justice. A welcoming campus that values the rights of everyone and appreciates the differences that exist amongst human beings is the greatest success of transformation. The portfolio offers the institution and the student body a greater understanding of justice. It is through it that discrimination is intolerable within the academic spaces. The portfolio advocates for equity for everyone. It offers persons an opportunity to be treated as human beings without fear.

The Transformation Officer has a duty to represent all students on campus. It strives towards providing a student experience that is welcoming to everyone without discriminating. We are shaped by the environments that we originate from as students.

saam vorentoe · masiye phambili · forward together

It is therefore the responsibility of the Transformation Officer to bridge the gap by providing a global experience that will not violate the rights of others based on their language, gender, religion, social class, and political affiliation. The goal is to create an environment that will offer students an opportunity to learn from one and another through embracing multiculturalism. Human dignity and justice guide the transformation agenda.

Committees / Task Teams

1. Transformation and Critical Engagement Forum – Head
2. Student Institutional Transformation Committee – Chairperson
3. Institutional Transformation Committee
4. Institutional Forum
5. Division of Student Affairs Transformation Forum
6. Institutional Advisory Committee on Internationalisation
7. RegisterAll task team – Main campus and Tygerberg campus
8. Matie-to-Matie Financial Assistance Committee
9. Unfair discrimination, HIV and GBV Policy task team
10. Campus and Residence Life and Culture Review – LGBTQ+ community working group

Term Overview

1. The Transformation Committee planned an amazing workshop for the SRC that focused on engaging on various topics related to different spheres of transformation such as mental health, the decolonisation of education, gender and sexuality, and race. The purpose of this workshop was to allow the SRC members an opportunity to not only engage on these topics to have a better understanding of them but also to assist them in knowing how to embed transformation in their portfolios. To my disappointment the workshop, although compulsory was very poorly attended by the SRC as many sent in apologies and excuses. Despite the date for the workshop being on the SRC calendar for two weeks before I officially sent information about the workshop, there were only about 7 SRC members out of 22 (excluding myself) who were in attendance. I addressed this with the SRC at the following SRC meeting explaining that my committee worked tirelessly to design a workshop that catered specifically to the needs of the SRC and ensured that the content the speakers were presenting was relevant and implementable by the SRC in planning events, making decisions, and even reviewing policies. I have not hidden the fact that I believe our SRC requires a much more in-depth understanding of transformation to effectively represent students and the lack of attendance by the SRC puts into question how seriously my colleagues take the issue of transformation across the institution. Nonetheless, my committee and I are looking at alternative methods of still getting the content across as there is still a term left for us in office and that is still time to at least begin the process of understanding what the transformative student experience we are trying to achieve looks like.
2. With June being international Pride Month I worked with Ayesha as the WAQE SRC member to make this June a memorable one in the history of our institution.

We planned a very busy Pride Week that included a movie screening at Pulp in collaboration with QueerUs, a Pride Expo at the TSS in collaboration with Spectrum, a virtual sex-education

talk in collaboration with LLL, a virtual safe space, and a Pride March around Stellenbosch where we gifted 37 pride flags to residences and PSOs on both Stellenbosch and Tygerberg campus. We also managed to procure a mobile pride banner wall that was graciously sponsored by Facilities Management. This I believe was a week that will be remembered in the university for a very long time.

3. After engaging with SU MSA I assisted them by bringing up to Prof Ramjugernath the issue of exams being set on Eid dates. Prof Ramjugernath alerted me to the fact that this falls under the Registrar, Dr Retief however he was able to assist by discussing this with her in two meetings he had with her. This proved to be of great assistance as the exams set to be written on Eid on the 21st of July were moved to the 20th of July. This allowed Muslim students to celebrate this important day and not have to worry about choosing between academics and religion. I was informed that the Registrar set up an advisory panel that will assist the Examination Office with setting exam dates around various religious holidays. I will communicate with the Registrar to get confirmation of this so that an official update can be given to students.
4. I joined a meeting between the SRC Chairperson, Xola, and Prof Ramjugernath to raise numerous concerns particularly around the stagnancy when it comes to transformation in living spaces. In that meeting I also checked in on the issue raised earlier in the year of the lack of black psychologists at CSCD. The update that I was given was that Prof Ramjugernath has collected a list of staff members who will be retiring or whose contracts will be ending soon. There is an active effort to fill these positions across many university departments with black staff members. This came as a welcomed surprise as it shows the university's intentionality to have its racial demographics depict those of the country's.

Budget

Budget & Reasoning

The newly added items on my budget were as follows:

1. Pride Week – this funded transport to Cape Town to buy the clothing items the SRC wore during the Pride March, as well as the cupcakes that were given away to students during the march.
2. Planning weekend for DVC proposals – my committee had to work over the weekend, working on two sets of proposals that were on intended to be shared with different Rectorate members and DSAf. This funded the catering for the planning weekend.

Expenditure so far

Transformation			R13 104,77
<u>Action4Inclusion Campaign</u>			<u>-R1 071,27</u>
Pniel Walkathon	R876,00	R941,07	-R65,07
Table Mountain Transport	R876,00	R1 929,74	-R1 053,74
Weekly summit transport	R3 340,00	R3 292,46	R47,54
<u>Be You Initiative</u>			<u>R640,00</u>
Student Card costs	R2 400,00	R1 760,00	R640,00
<u>Discretionary Funds- Transformation</u>			<u>R0,00</u>
Discretionary Funds	R1 000,00	R1 000,00	R0,00
<u>Member Expenses</u>			<u>R726,00</u>
Data Costs (4GB)	R1 312,00	R586,00	R726,00
<u>Pride Week</u>			<u>R1 548,20</u>
Transport	R400,00	R382,94	R17,06
Give-aways	R5 306,71	R3 775,57	R1 531,14
<u>Safe Spaces (Collab with WAQE)</u>			<u>R2 869,00</u>
Transport	R2 869,00		R2 869,00
<u>Student ITC Development</u>			<u>R0,00</u>
In-person Meetings	R540,00	R540,00	R0,00
<u>Transformation Committee</u>			<u>R2 708,84</u>
Planning Weekend for DVC Proposals	R3 000,00	R2 541,16	R458,84
End of year Function for committee member	R2 250,00		R2 250,00
<u>Transformation Review programmes</u>			<u>R5 684,00</u>
Food and Drink	R6 000,00	R316,00	R5 684,00

Plans for next term

1. Collaboration with Student Wellness – women’s month celebration videos.
2. Virtual Imposter Syndrome talk.
3. Collaboration with Student Wellness – women’s month student leadership round table talk.
4. Collaboration with WAQE – collecting final comments for various policy reviews.
5. Prepare presentation for CSC and Student Governance for SRC, TSR, AAC, PC, SPC, SC transformation training.
6. Collaboration with CSC – clear infographic for harassment and assault reporting process.
7. Grief group therapy proposal for CSCD.
8. CEFCP final update for launch at end of this term.
9. Student Parent Support document proposal for relevant stakeholders.
10. Collaboration with PSF – virtual engagement about the relevance of matters in the Middle East to South African university students.

11. Assisting Leadership Development/Vice Chair with handover, specifically transformation related check-ins.
12. Visualising transformation photoshoot
13. BeYou initiative student cards rollout and term 3 applications opening

Recommendations to improve portfolio

1. When planning something like the transformation workshop I planned, communicate with Leadership Development, Vice Chair and Chair during the process so that you can have their support on making attendance compulsory for members. This will help as the instruction coming from them can be received differently versus if it comes from you.
2. Try as much as possible to plan things well in advance. I know that is not always possible as sometimes things come up, but try to get heavy planning done to make things run easier.

Important Contacts

Nicolette van den Eijkel – Chief Director: Facilities Management – vdeijkel@sun.ac.za

Nicky Adams – Commercial Rentals and Promotions Officer – nadams@sun.ac.za

Brandon Como – Events and Security Operations Officer – como@sun.ac.za

Prof Deresh Ramjugernath – Deputy Vice Chancellor: Learning & Teaching – dereshr@sun.ac.za

Dr Ronel Retief – Registrar – ronelretief@sun.ac.za