



# SRC 2020/2021 Term 3 Report

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## Contents

Constitutional Responsibilities .....	1
Portfolio Overview.....	2
Committees / Task Teams .....	2
Council.....	2
SU Campus/Residence Life and Culture Review: LGBTQIAP+ community working group .....	2
Review of Residence Head Appointment.....	3
Term Overview.....	3
Transport for Anti-GBV Protest in Cape Town .....	3
Pride Week.....	4
Safe Space .....	4
Pride Stall.....	4
Let's Talk about SEX! .....	5
Pride Wall Unveiling and Pride Walk .....	5
Budget.....	6
Budget & Reasoning.....	6
Amendments to existing projects:.....	6
Projects no longer requiring funding.....	7
New Projects requiring additional funding.....	7
Expenditure so far.....	7
Plans for next term .....	7
Recommendations to improve portfolio .....	8
Important Contacts.....	8

## Constitutional Responsibilities

Though the Student Constitution does not specifically mention the responsibilities of the Women and Queer Empowerment portfolio, it does state that the core functions of the SRC, and by extension, WAQE include:

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(1) to act in the best interest of students and to actively promote students' rights under (11).

(3) to evaluate the University policy and give input in the formulation thereof;

(5) to facilitate projects and initiatives to the benefit of students;

(6) to inform students continuously, and obtain feedback, about its activities; and

In terms of meeting the constitutional responsibilities of the WAQE portfolio, the portfolio has met its constitutional mandate in terms of the points above. Promoting of student's rights and evaluating (and providing input on) University Policy often went hand in hand throughout this term where input was required on various committees for university policies involving Women and Queer students needs. Facilitation of projects and initiatives took place in the form of events, and obtaining feedback was done through the feedback process of the Anti-GBV SU memorandums as well as during Student Parliament.

## Portfolio Overview

This portfolio has only existed as WAQE for one term previously and is thus in its infancy: given the groundwork that was started last year part of the vision of this portfolio is to continue to lay this foundation for the leaders and students to come. It must also be recognised that women and queer bodies have been largely neglected by staff and student leadership alike since the establishment of this institution.

Women and queer bodies have been the subject of many types of discriminations throughout the world and Stellenbosch University is no exception. This discrimination often leads to students being excluded, has a negative impact on their mental health and ultimately leads to a fractured student community. The purpose of this portfolio is to actively combat this discrimination where it exists on a managerial, policy, staff, and student level and to create a university community that truly reflects our values of Stellenbosch University.

## Committees / Task Teams

### Council

The Council meeting this term took place on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June. This meeting required a full day commitment as it takes place from 10am to 5pm. Pertinent issues of the university are discussed in these meetings.

### SU Campus/Residence Life and Culture Review: LGBTQIAP+ community working group

Head of committee: Fanele Ndebele (fanele@sun.ac.za)

My presence on this committee included a commitment to attend and contribute to weekly meetings for this term. Pertinent topics that were discussed included:

- The heteronormative, cisnormative and often patriarchal culture of residences
- Lack Gender Neutral residences and bathrooms on campus
- University policies including residence placement policy, student disciplinary code and the SU Management's response to the Anti-GBV memorandum as well as the discrepancy between university policies and their implementation.
- Representation at the Equality Unit for LGBT+ community (and its affiliation with the HIV+ office)

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- Mental Health and support for the LGBT+ support

Given that this was a small committee it was necessary for me to be a very active participant in these meetings and often times it was only me and the Head of the committee providing input.

## Review of Residence Head Appointment

Head of Committee: Riana Engelbrecht ([rianae@sun.ac.za](mailto:rianae@sun.ac.za))

This committee interrogated the process by which residence heads are selected. This included a review of:

- Residence Head Role description in residence heads' manual
- Advertising for a residence head position
- Appointment process and contentious issues around the application process (eg. Applications being for specific communities or not disclosing specific community on application)
- Terms of service (maximum time of being a residence head for a specific community)
- Competencies, skills and requirements for appointment
- The future role of the residence head and its evolution
- Accommodation for residence heads and standardisation thereof

## Term Overview

### Transport for Anti-GBV Protest in Cape Town

The portfolio was approached to organise transport for students who wanted to attend an Anti-GBV protest taking place in Cape Town. Two 10-seaters were booked. Other than the challenges mentioned below the arrangements ran quite smoothly.

#### Order of the day:

Time	Activity
7:45	Departure from Stellenbosch Campus (outside Neelsie)
8:15	Departure from Tygerberg Campus (outside TSS)
9:00	Arrival at protest
12:00	End of protest
12:00-13:00	Gathering signatures for petition
13:00-14:00	Refreshments
15:00	Return to campus

#### Safety precautions:

There was a list for everyone to sign and put down their contact details before we left, and my number was distributed in case of emergency. I also distributed the number of someone I had organised to be on standby who was not at the protest in case of emergency or in the case that I was uncontactable.

#### Challenges:

- I sent out a google form for people to sign up for transport. Unfortunately, I forgot to close the form in time and as a result the amount of people who signed up for transport was over 30 (when only 20 seats were available). This caused much distress on the day. When booking transport for previous events students who sign up often do not show up, so on the day there was only a surplus of 3 students and alternative transport was arranged on the day. To avoid

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this in the future, I would however suggest keeping a closer eye on sign ups or limiting the number of entries on the google form if possible.

- Finding drivers for the vehicle: I was unable to find someone to drive the second 10-seater and as a result I had to drive one of the 10-seaters to and from Cape Town. I would highly suggest rather accepting the extra cost of hiring a vehicle with a driver as finding someone able and willing to be a driver of a 10-seater can prove to be quite difficult. Alternatively, the SRC as a team should try to share contacts of student drivers willing to drive 10-seaters as this might greatly streamline the process.
- Timing: The protest was meant to start at 9am. We had to wait for some students at Stellenbosch campus and as a result we ran late by 30 minutes. I would therefore suggest advertising a time that leaves some leeway for late comers.

## Pride Week

### Safe Space

#### **Purpose:**

There is a need for marginalised bodies at Stellenbosch University to have safe spaces to connect with persons experiencing similar issues in our country and institution. The setting up of the safe space was as to promote some support for mental health within the community, for which being discriminated against is often a contributing factor for deteriorated mental health. The safe space was also aimed at providing a respite from judgment, unsolicited opinions, and having to explain yourself. It also allows people to feel supported and respected and allows access to the community.

#### **Planning:**

The planning for this was quite straight forward. It entailed creating a poster to promote the event as well as creating an MS Teams meeting as the platform for the event. It also entailed securing a facilitator for the events.

#### **Areas for improvement:**

It was expressed at the safe space that there was a want for more regular safe spaces to take place, so an area of improvement would be to make safe spaces a more regular event.

## Pride Stall

#### **Purpose:**

The purpose of the Pride stall was two-fold. The first was to promote the events taking place throughout Pride week to the students of the Tygerberg Campus. The second was to create visibility for the LGBT+ community on the Tygerberg Campus and to create a platform for the dissemination of information.

#### **Planning:**

I wanted this to be a collaborative event with some of the critical engagement House Committee members, so I began by extending an invitation to them. We then discussed how we would like to set up the stall. I contacted Adri (the manager of the TSS) to acquire permission to use the TSS for our stall who then also contacted the caterer for the TSS to organise a Pride Meal for the week at a discounted price. We then printed out posters and I acquired Pride flags for decoration as well as the pamphlets.

#### **Areas for Improvement:**

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The improvement that I would suggest is to make the event more interactive if COVID-19 regulations allow. It was very difficult to engage students without any incentive, so perhaps also organising either snacks or giveaways at the stall as well would have improved engagement.

## Let's Talk about SEX!

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this event was to fill the gap left in our education system in terms of sex education. Given that most students sex education has mainly been driven by the ineffective promotion of celibacy in a purely heteronormative and cisnormative manner, this event was organised to provide inclusive sex education through a sex positive lens.

### **Planning:**

This event was organised in collaboration with the LLL management team member Vuyokazi Hlawatika as well as the Transformation portfolio. The initial planning of this event was with the view of making this an in-person event, but as the COVID-19 regulations changed mid-planning the event was moved online. The planning for this event included the following steps:

- Contacting potential speakers (list of contacts supplied below)
- Creating poster for promotion of the event
- Setting up of an MS Teams event
- Securing giveaways: Exclusive books vouchers and Sex Toys (purchased from Allure Sensuality Emporium <https://www.alluresensuality.co.za/>)

### **Challenges:**

The biggest challenge around this event was the shift from an in-person event to an online event as it required a shift from catering to giveaways, cancelling of venue bookings as well as additional communications and admin with the speakers. To mitigate this difficulty, I would suggest that future events be planned to be online from the outset until COVID-19 is significantly less of a factor to be concerned about as it can cause unnecessary difficulty due to unrealistic expectations.

## Pride Wall Unveiling and Pride Walk

The organisation of the Pride wall was organised by the Transformation Portfolio-please see the Transformation Term report for further details. This event mainly entailed:

- organising a Pride Wall to promote visibility for the LGBT+ community
- Ordering Pride flags for communities who requested them
- Organising a route for the Pride walk
- Ordering pride cupcakes to hand out on the day

WAQE assisted with getting quotes for the Pride flags as well as collection. Information on useful contacts for flag acquirement can be viewed below.

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## Budget

### Budget & Reasoning

The WAQE budget had to be reviewed in the beginning of this term due to unforeseen events needing to be budgeted for as well as certain events having to be moved online due to the raised lockdown level during this term.

#### Amendments to existing projects:

Initial Event	Initial budget	Reviewed event	Reason for change	Final allocation
Panel Discussion	R1 100	This was replaced by a COVID-19 friendly stall on the Tygerberg campus to promote visibility and support for the LGBT+ community.	There was a change in the COVID19 alert level the week before Pride week was to begin and as a result the panel discussion (which was initially meant to discuss different gender identities and sexual orientations) was changed to the out-door pride stall which instead handed out pamphlets conveying the information.	R200 for printing of pamphlets and decorations.
Buses to Cape Town Pride	R4 000	Handing out of flags and Pride walk on campus.	The reason for this change was that there was no longer a Cape Town Pride due to COVID-19. As a result, there was instead a collaboration between the Transformation and WAQE portfolio to arrange pride flags for the communities on campus and do a pride walk to promote visibility and encourage the celebration of the LGBT+ community.	R2 000 was allocated to the purchasing of Pride flags.
SexPose	R1 500	Let's Talk about SEX (online)	This event was moved online due to the change in the COVID-19 regulations. The funds for this event were initially allocated to the purchasing of gifts and catering for the events. Instead these were reallocated to giveaways (3 book vouchers as well as 2 sex toys).	R1500
Critical Engagement	4×R400	Critical Engagement (reduced number)	I decided to reduce the number of Critical Engagement sessions to 2, to free up more of my time to host different events such as panel discussions and webinars. This decision was	2×R200

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			also made because I felt that there was less of a gap in terms of Critical Engagement sessions as the House Committees already host a substantial amount of this type of event. Instead, I felt it would be more useful and appropriate to amend this plan.	
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### Projects no longer requiring funding

Project	Amount originally allocated	Reason for funding cancellation
Slut Walk	R1 200	The slut walk was meant to be the main event of Women's Month, but I was then approached by the Sustainability portfolio of both the TSR and the SRC who pitched a collaboration of Women's months events instead. Though the planning took place in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> term, the events themselves took place in the final term and will be discussed in more detailed in that report.
Safe Spaces	R2 682,50	The safe spaces were moved completely online and as a result the funding for refreshments and transport was no longer required.
Task Team	R11 040	These meetings originally required funding due to them being planned to take place in person. Unfortunately, due to my own personal delays and then institutional delays, no in person meetings took place. These meetings were moved completely online and no longer require the funding initially requested.

### New Projects requiring additional funding

Project	Amount requested	Reason for additional funds
Transport to Anti-GBV protest in Cape Town	R2 000	There was a request that was brought to the SRC to arrange transport to an anti-GBV protest that was taking place in Cape Town. As the WAQE representative on the SRC, I requested funds and organised the transport.

### Expenditure so far

Items/Services purchased	Amount
Transport for students to Anti-GBV Protest	R2 000
3×R250 Exclusive Books vouchers	R750
Sex Toy Giveaways	R610

### Plans for next term

- I. Women's month activities:
  - a. Women in Leadership Panel discussion
  - b. Menstrual Health Webinar

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- c. GBV Safe Space
2. Anti-GBV Memorandum Feedback: Collating all of the feedback received from communities regarding the Anti-GBV SU Memorandums of 2019 and provide support to communities where needed.
3. Critical Engagement Manual release: this is a document that is currently being created to assist future Critical Engagement House Committee members to create critical engagement events and programmes more easily.
4. Uyinene Mrwetyana Foundation Initiative ('Pavement to Parliament): this is an initiative where there will be a collection of letters of victims of GBV that will be delivered to parliament.

## Recommendations to improve portfolio

The recommendation that I would make to improve this portfolio is for the next WAQE representative of the SRC to open a committee as soon as they find possible as the portfolio requires a fair bit of administrative work that makes additional event planning difficult and creating a portfolio to assist particularly with upkeeping the Instagram pages would be incredibly useful and something that I regret not doing in the beginning of my term.

## Important Contacts

Adri (TSS manager): Cell nr-0827799009 email address- [a3b@sun.ac.za](mailto:a3b@sun.ac.za)

Sex Talk:

- Dr Anastacia Tomson (Transgender rights activist and Medical Doctor): [doc.tomson@gmail.com](mailto:doc.tomson@gmail.com)
- Kaylon Weppelman (Equality Unit facilitator): [kaylon@sun.ac.za](mailto:kaylon@sun.ac.za)
- Sari Cohen (Allure Sensuality Emporium): [sari@alluresensuality.co.za](mailto:sari@alluresensuality.co.za)
- Zoey Black (LGBT+ content creator): [info@zoeyblack.com](mailto:info@zoeyblack.com)
- Exclusive books voucher contact for quote: [lisan@exclusivebooks](mailto:lisan@exclusivebooks)

Contacts for Flags:

- The Matie Shop: [denielle@sun.ac.za](mailto:denielle@sun.ac.za)
- Budget Banners: [budgetbanners26@gmail.com](mailto:budgetbanners26@gmail.com)

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