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Portfolio:	PC Vice Chair (PSO Chair)
Subject:	*Third Term Report*
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Constitutional Responsibilities

As the Prim Committee's Vice-Chair and having been assigned the responsibilities of the committee's PSO Chair, I am mandated to represent the 11 PSO (Private Student Organisation) 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 PSO Primaria to benefit overall community-building in our private student structures. This is done both informally on a relational basis with PSO leaders, as well as at structured developmental Strategic Conferences (Stratcons) which offers a platform for PSO Primaria and Vice Primaria to engage collaboratively with community-specific and campus-related issues in order to develop leadership abilities and promote the PSO project. The PSO Chair works alongside the PSO Office at SSG to develop and orchestrate three annual Stratcons, each tailored appropriately to the needs of the communities.

The key responsibilities of the PSO Chair include the following:

- 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,
- Orchestration of three Strategic Conferences,

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- 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 PSO constituency. A trusted and reliable link of information and representation between the PSO 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 PSO 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 or, at the very least, the privately accommodated student body.

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

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often that a case needs to be made to university management for a particular desire of my constituency, which introduces an negotiative element to the job description which becomes particularly consequential when the debate is of budgetary or even ideological nature. The materiality of this becomes increasingly evident when noting that PSO students form 75% of the student body.

The success of the PSO project is detrimental in supporting Stellenbosch University's vision in community building and a transformative student experience. Without thriving PSO communities, a burden falls on residences, residence placement, the University's value system and Student Affairs at large. My role thus accepts a responsibility to promote thriving PSO community spaces and structures as far as I am capable.

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

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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.

Institutional Forum (IF) - The Institutional Forum (IF) is one of the University's three main statutory bodies - the other two being the Council and the Senate. The functions and powers of the IF are laid down in section 31 of the Higher Education Act (Act 101 of 1997) as follows:

"(a) the IF must advise the Council on issues affecting the University, including–

(i) the implementation of the Act and the national policy on higher education;

(ii) race and gender equity policies;

(iii) the selection of candidates for senior management positions;

(iv) codes of conduct, mediation and dispute resolution procedures; and

(v) the fostering of an institutional culture which promotes tolerance and respect for fundamental human rights and creates an appropriate environment for teaching, research and learning; and

(b) the IF must perform such other functions as determined by the Council."

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Registration Work Group – Amalgamates registration stakeholders in order to align registration related strategies. Chaired by the Registrar.

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 (Ingrid Heydenrych) and Vice-Chair, the PC's treasurer (Zander Prinsloo), the PC's secretary (Neil de Kock), the external Cluster Convenor (Philip Steenkamp), and the Tygerberg PC Chair (Slindekahle Msane).

PSO-Societies Task Team – Chaired by myself and the Societies Council Chair, Yanga Keva, to promote improved and sustainable collaboration between societies and PSOs.

Budget Overview

No budget allocated or used.

Term Overview

1. SRC

The global COVID-19 pandemic has had a considerable impact on this term's execution, primarily with the migration to online interactions. Regarding my constitutional mandate as per the Student Constitution, I have fulfilled my attendance requirements of SRC meetings, and have actively engaged with the agendas in order to fully serve my constituency.

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The third term with the Prim Committee has been largely impacted by the pandemic. Prior plans have needed to take a backseat to focus on the efficient migration of community living to an online platform. I have offered support and guidance to the Prims, PSO cohort in particular, in aiming to develop sound virtual engagement strategies with the intention of improving community engagement in the long term. Specifically, each PSO has committed to a Virtual Engagement Plan for the duration of the pandemic to deliver a top quality community experience to its members despite not being on campus. These plans were developed with my support, consultation and guidance.

A successful termly Stratcon was planned and delivered which included teambuilding and developmental sessions aimed at the PSO Prims. I prepared and delivered a session on storytelling and purpose in communities which can be viewed at https://youtu.be/Pv_zCy1p-uQ. The Stratcon was very well received and was the first online Stratcon of its kind.

This term also saw the finalisation of the Prims' community-specific alcohol policies, through which controlled alcohol usage in communities will be enforced post-pandemic. The PC has been a thinktank and supportive body in aiding each community's policy development, which has been positively received from the CSC.

The latter part of the term has focused on preparing for online elections – a first for the PSOs. Meetings were held with the Prims to ensure a fair and effective election procedure, which will be executed early next term, with the aim of possibly finding a permanent alternative to in-person House Meetings for elections, which are historically poorly attended across the board for PSOs.

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With the PSO office at the CSC, focus has been on strategic virtual engagement as well as developing a model to greater support senior PSO students and commuting students. A senior PSO pilot project is in its preparation phase, as well as one for remote PSO hubs, the first of which is planned to be developed in Somerset West.

2. Committees and Task Teams

Student Housing Committee (SHK) – This committee has had no sittings this term.

Monitors Advies Komitee (MAK) – This term, the final MAK report was agreed upon and published. The report has been shared with each of the communities, supplying feedback on the welcoming period and prompting future improvements.

Institutional Forum (IF) – Since my election to represent the SRC on the IF, no sitting has taken place.

Registration Work Group – This committee had no sittings this term.

Welcoming Program Committee – This committee had no sittings this term.

PC Executive – We have had regular meetings discussing campus matters and PK agenda points, as well as informal team-building and bonding sessions.

3. Other

As planned for in my previous report, I approached the placement office to accommodate PSO choices into the application system for prospective students, and a solution is being explored by the Placement Policy Task Team.

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Plans for Next Academic Term

In the upcoming term I plan to:

- Work with the Alumni Office to improve the IT infrastructure of PSO alumni databases,
- Continue overseeing the execution of the PSO-Societies task team report,
- Plan and execute the following Stratcon for PSO Prims,
- Maintain a healthy and supportive relationship with my Prims,
- Convert the men's mental health project into its final phase, and
- Continue to fulfil my constitutional mandate to the best of my ability.

Recommendations for Portfolio Improvement

In the spirit of community building, and echoing the sentiments proposed in the first section of this document relating to the importance of thriving PSO communities, I will continue to focus on developing communities that are unique and above all identify with a purpose. I fear that in the interest of collaboration, individual community identities have been overlooked in the PSO context. Frankly, if we have ten identical PSOs – we might as well have one. A sincere recommendation to Student Affairs would be to hire more PSO Coordinators to each coordinate fewer communities, or to restructure the PSO project to assign individual community guardians to each PSO to offer direct, tailored assistance and create an honest and evident sense of community.

Important Contacts

- Pieter Kloppers (SSG Director): pwc@sun.ac.za
- Gareth Cornelissen (SSG Deputy Director): gmc@sun.ac.za

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- Yeki Mosomothane (SSG: Multicultural Coordinator): yekim@sun.ac.za

- Dr Makhetha (Student Affairs Senior Director): choicemakhetha@sun.ac.za

- Jethro Georgiades (PSO coordinator): jethro@sun.ac.za

- Dr Celeste Nel (Admission and Placement Director): cswan@sun.ac.za

- Anele Mdepa (Student Governance Manager): anelemdepa@sun.ac.za