**STELLENBOSCH STUDENT PARLIAMENT**

**SECOND TERM REPORT 2019**

**By:**

**T Ntwagae**

**Deputy Accountability Chair**

**July 2019**

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**Details**

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Position: Deputy Accountability Chair

**Introduction**

As Deputy Accountability Chair, my presence in the Stellenbosch Student Parliament Committee is fairly recent. After an application process, followed by an interview, I was inducted into my role on May 1st 2019 with my duties commencing immediately. As my induction into the committee was fairly late into the term, additionally, exam period was approaching, time did not allow for me to fully immerse into my role. As a member of the Student Parliament Committee, it is part of my duties to produce a report on the activities of the Committee from the previous study term (term two). This report that I have produced will reflect on a few events which occurred in the second term. Furthermore, the report will highlight a few challenges I have observed within the committee.

**Duties**

As stipulated in the Student Parliament Constitution, the duties I take on, as Deputy Accountability Chair, are as follows:

1. In conjunction with the AC Chair for setting up Accountability Forum;
2. Serve as coordinator of all task groups, discussion forums and ad hoc committees;
3. Ensuring that Accountability Forum’s working schedules are updated and amended as per the processes within this Constitution;
4. Assist AC Chair in fulfilling his/her duties as delegated by AC Chair; Attend all SRC meetings where possible;
5. Attend TSP meeting once a semester;
6. Attend TSR meetings at least once a semester

**Reflections**

1. **Second Parliamentary Sitting**

The Second Parliamentary sitting, which took place on 7th May 2019, was the first sitting in which I participated in as Deputy Accountability Chair. The proceedings of this sitting did not run smoothly. This was due to an adjustment which was made to the order of the agenda of the sitting. This raised constitutional concerns with the broader members of the Student Parliament who were present at the meeting. As a result, the general discontent of members led to persistent interruptions by which took the form of members’ inability to uphold constitutional protocol and etiquette. Due to the disruptions, all agenda points were not addressed in that sitting.

1. **External Communication Meeting**

During the course of the second term the Student Parliament website was re-established. This is a platform that was previously underused and as a result neglected. Now with our committee re-establishing it, the website has become our main source of communication. Through this we exercise our constitutional mandate to be transparent with the student body. Previous methods of communication was mainly through email. The shift to website was mainly due to legal acts which parliament has to abide by.

**Observations**

1. **General Observation**

The Student Parliament is not a platform which is explicitly exposed to students and is therefore not used to its full potential. It has come to my attention that most of the people who are aware of the platform are those who are in other leadership positions within the university and are acquainted with the Student Parliament or students who are personally interested in the platform and took it within their hands to search for the existence of the platform. With this being said, necessary measures need to be taken forward in order for students to explicitly be exposed to the existence of Student Parliament and its capabilities it has for the student.

1. **Hand-over protocol**

A lack of general hand-over protocol is something I have observed in my time serving thus far. The absence of previous reports and documents has hindered this committee to work to its fullest potential in accordance with its mandated duties. The absence of documents makes it difficult for the committee to work progressively as there are gaps in knowledge in which in which require the knowledge of former members to fill in. The introduction of the website has served as a solution for this problem. This therefore will enable future committees of the parliament to work more effectively knowing the issues which were dealt with by previous committees.

**Conclusion**

On reflection upon all that has taken place and was observed in the second term, I am optimistic for the events to come in the third term. The previous, and some persisting, challenges faced by the committee serve as reason to keep working to further strengthen the team and therefore enable us to serve our constitutional duty to the Matie Community.