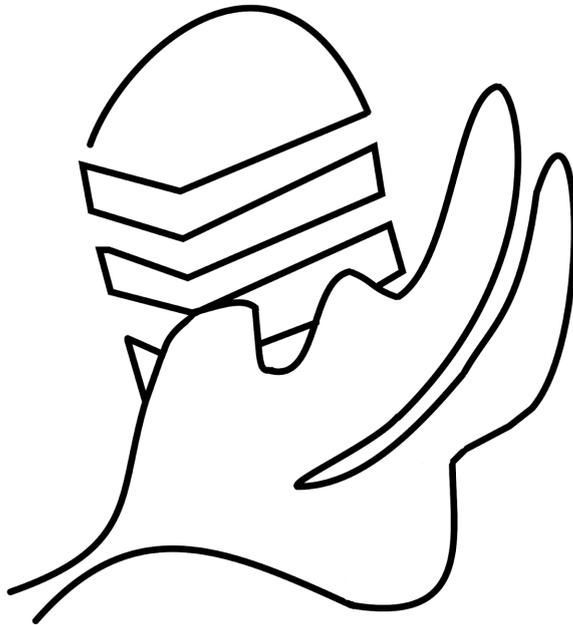


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# First Term Report of the Secretary General

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## 1. Introduction

This is the term report of the Secretary General of Student Parliament written in accordance with the Student Constitution and Student Parliament Constitution of the University of Stellenbosch. This report will speak of the goals achieved by Student Parliament in the fourth term and first term respectively, that is from the date of the election of the committee. This term report will also critically analyse the milestones set out and achieved by me in my official capacity and will mention the challenges faced when trying to achieve those goals.

## 2. Fourth Term

I officially began my duties as Secretary-General on 1 November 2020. The majority of this time until the start of the 2021 academic year was spent focusing on year planning, training, and combing through the Student Parliament Constitution with the



aim of amending it.

## 3. First Term

In the first term of 2021, Student Parliament was involved in the SRC's Constitutional Review process for the Student Constitution, as the envisioned amendments stand to impact Student Parliament immensely. In anticipation of this new Student Constitution, our Constitutional Review process was put on hold. We also held our first sitting successfully. Beyond this, cooperative and consultative governance was routinely upheld via our bi-weekly meetings, our meetings with Tygerberg SP and the joint sessions between the Speaker of Stellenbosch, Chairperson of the SRC and Chief Justice. At all these meetings I am responsible for minute taking.

### 3.1. Organising training

It was my responsibility to organise training for Student Parliament, Tygerberg Student Parliament and the Student Court. This was done with the help of Student Governance. Additionally, we set up a Corporate Governance session in which communication was fostered among the different branches of student leadership. While this was relatively successful, I found that Student Parliament still felt a lack of clarity on many issues.

### 3.2. Constitutional Review

As mentioned, a lot of the December holidays were spent doing analysis of the Student Parliament Constitution with the hopes of setting up a Constitutional Review task team to amend it by the end of 2021. This was put on hold when we became aware that the amendments to the Student Constitution would require the drafting of new constitutions entirely. Resultantly, I was quite involved in the stakeholders sessions held by the Constitutional Review Committee, and provided input for how



Student Parliament can be improved over the course of three meetings.

### 3.3. Sitting Planning

In collaboration with the Student Parliament Committee and the Steering Committee in particular, the first sitting was organised and held successfully on MS Teams. This involved planning, administration and marketing efforts.

### 3.4. Constitutional review task teams

Currently, planning is underway for the creation of two task teams - one to aid leadership bodies in the amendment of their constitutions in alignment with the new Student Constitution and another that will be drafting the new Student Parliament Constitutions.

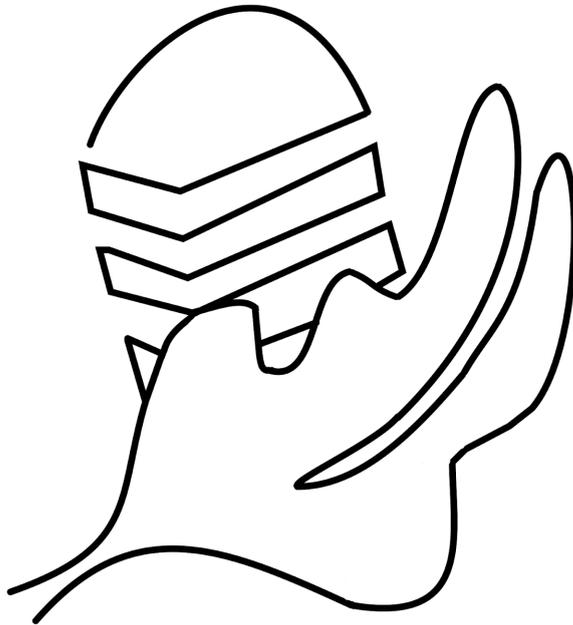
#### 4. Challenges [HIGHLIGHT THE BROADER CHALLENGES AND ISSUES YOU FACED SO FAR]

##### 4.1. The ambiguity of my mandate

I am finding the role of Policy Officer particularly overwhelming because the Constitution does not make the role, function and obligations of this role clear. It is thus difficult to determine what is expected of me and in what way (if any) this role serves the ideal of consultative governance and accountability because it increasingly feels like a procedural obligation that lacks inherent value. Beyond this, the broad mandate and obligation of Student Parliament beyond administration and the hosting of sittings is very ambiguous, resulting in a lot of frustration among the committee.

##### 4.2. The issue of Constitutional review

Because of the delay to our Constitutional Review process due to the large-scale amendment to Chapter 4 of the Student Constitution, I fail to see how Student



Parliament will be able to draft two new Constitutions so as to comply with the new Student Constitution by the end of our term in the third academic term of this year.

#### 5. Goals

##### 5.1. Policy Unit

In the second term I intend to host a Policy Forum session in which the progress of leadership bodies in amending their constitutions and updating their policies will be assessed.

## 6. Conclusion

In conclusion, while I am happy that the Committee and myself have met our Constitutional mandate thus far, I am deeply concerned with Student Parliament's ability to meaningfully hold leaders accountable and provide students with a valuable forum beyond this minimum framework. In order for this to change, a new Constitution with more precise mandates will be required.

