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**FIRST TERM REPORT OF THE
SPEAKER/CHAIRPERSON**

TSP

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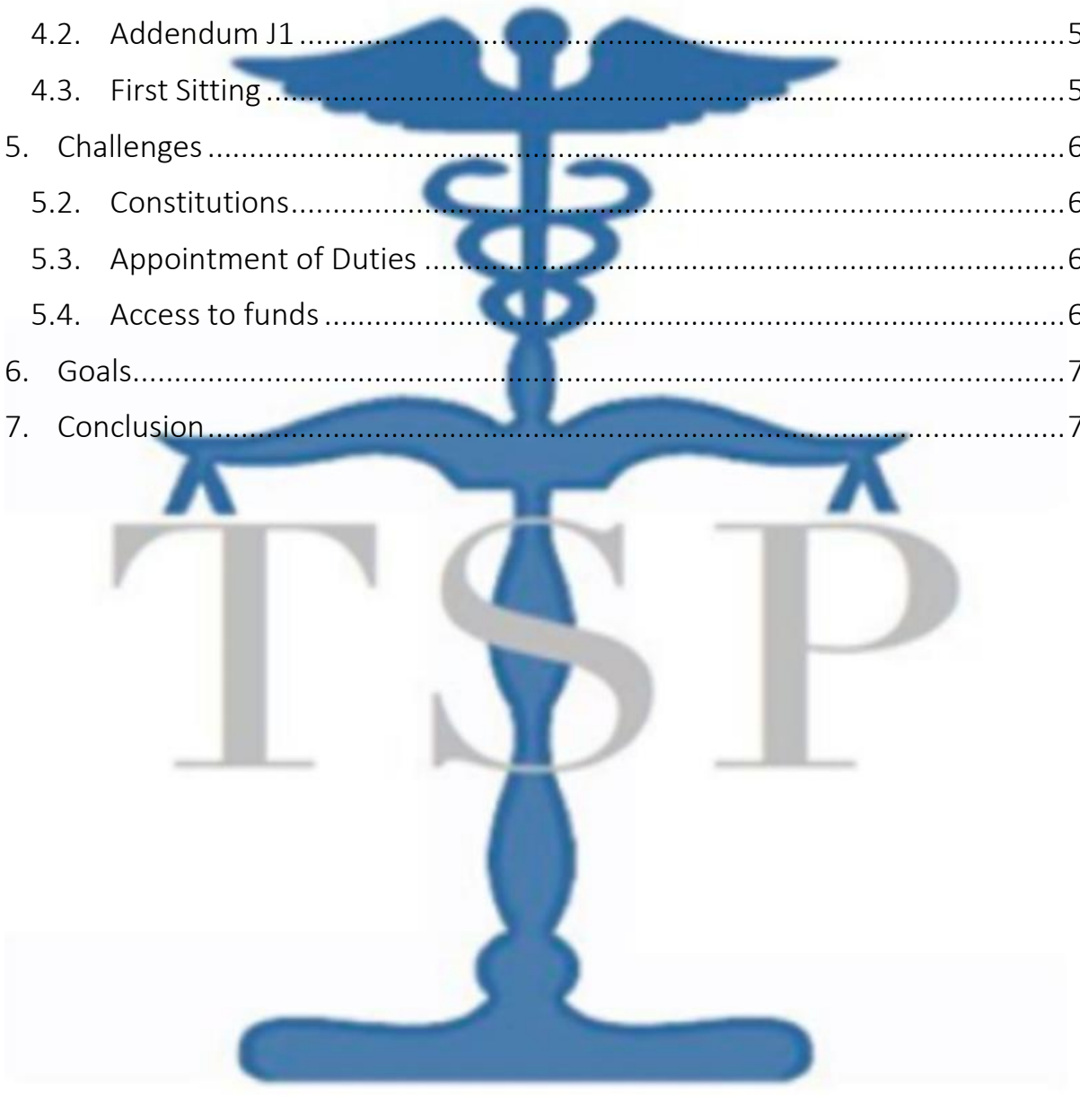
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1. Introduction

This is the first term report of the Speaker of Tygerberg Student Parliament written in accordance with the Student Constitution and Tygerberg Student Parliament Constitution of the University of Stellenbosch respectively. This report will speak of the goals achieved by Tygerberg Student Parliament in the fourth term and first term respectively, that it from the date of the election of myself - the speaker of Tygerberg Student Parliament . 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. Portfolio Objectives

The Speaker-

- a) This role is fulfilled by the democratically elected Speaker;
- b) Ensures that Tygerberg Student Parliament takes place;
- c) To preside over meetings of Tygerberg Student Parliament impartially and in such a manner as to promote orderly and democratic debate;
- d) Ultimately responsible to ensure that an agenda is compiled and marketed to all students at least one (1) week before Tygerberg Student Parliament takes place;
- e) Ultimately responsible to ensure that the minutes of Student Parliament are made available not more than two (2) weeks after each meeting;
- f) Acts as spokesperson for Tygerberg Student Parliament and the Tygerberg Student Parliament Committee;
- g) Is ultimately responsible for the finances of the Tygerberg Student Parliament;
- h) Attend all TSR meetings where possible;
- i) Meet with TSR Chairperson at least once a month;
- j) Attend Student Parliament Committee meetings.

3. Fourth Term

I was elected on the 30th of October 2020. I could not open interviews of my committee immediately due to exams , the upcoming holiday and due to the fact that I did not have access to the tygstudpar email address or social media platforms , which did pose a challenge. The official transfer of power was completed on the 5th of November 2020 after having a Teams Meeting with the previous Speaker and Members of Student Governance. I then took the conscious decision having consulted with the relevant structures to assume my duties in the 1st term due to; firstly, the universities restrictions on mass communication during the examination period , secondly, that I needed to establish a committee and thirdly , I was still awaiting access to the email address and social media platforms. It was also a challenge to meet with all members of the previous executive as they were also writing examinations and had commitments such as rotations .

4. First Term

In the first term my main goal was to establish my committee and then meet with all structures that I will be working hand in hand with which was Student Governance , Main Campus Parliament and the TSR respectively . When the academic term started, a Teams Meeting was held with all the structures mentioned previously in which we vowed to work together in the light of collaborative governance . Also, in that meeting we began to discuss the mandate of the various student bodies within the university.

I later then requested access to the mailing system used by Tygerberg Student Parliament . This was due to the fact that I needed to send a mass communication to all registered students to inform them of the vacancies for the executive of TSP . However, this was a challenge as I did not know who to contact , and time was running out – I then was able to access the mailing system after using the SUN ONLINE IT PORTAL . The applications of the executive opened and posed a challenge as at first there wasn't applicants – however we did then receive enough applicants for the different portfolios .

4.1. Informing Students about Student Parliament

In the beginning of the first term, I decided to inform students of Tygerberg Student Parliament, with the help of my communications officer . This was achieved by posting our mandate as well as the committee members on the various social media platforms . Posters were also stuck around campus informing students of TSP . This was well received by many students as many did not know about the TSP .

4.2. Addendum J1

Addendum J1 gave the Speaker of Tygerberg Student Parliament two mandates. Firstly, the speaker is required by this provision to establish a committee within the first academic term. Secondly, the Speaker is also required to hold the first sitting within the first academic term. These mandates were both achieved in the first term and I would like to thank the previous TSP Speaker , Ms Danielle Strydom as well as Mr A Mdepa and Ms Y Myoli from Student Governance for making this possible for me to achieve this mandate.

The executive members of the Tygerberg Student Parliament are Asanda Mnyandu (Deputy Speaker), Tarryn Pangel (Secretary General) , Sildonkuhle Chonco (Financial Officer) and Bongani Matea (Communications Officer). The number of applicants was equal to the number of positions available therefore, according to Addendum J1, if the number of applicants is equal to the number of positions available then it becomes a motion of confidence in the members.

4.3. First Sitting

The 1st sitting was held on the 26th April 2021 at 18h00 via Microsoft Teams due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions on gatherings. I must say that although submission for agenda points were opened – none were received, and this posed a challenge as as a committee we were unsure if we did enough in informing students of TSP . In this sitting the Speaker of Tygerberg Student Parliament was inaugurated and all in attendance did recite their commitment to unity .

5. Challenges

5.1. Procedural versus Substantive law

In the first term one of the main challenges faced by the Speaker of Tygerberg Student Parliament is the fact that one does not know what to do in order to fulfil their constitutional mandate. I must stress the distinction between substantive law and procedural law. The Student Parliament constitution bestows powers to the Speaker of Tygerberg Student Parliament and also limits them. However, the problem is how to use your powers to ensure that your mandate and the mandate given to you is met. That I found to be a challenge for me.

5.2. Constitutions

Another challenge I faced was understanding the constitutions and their applicability to Tygerberg and Main Campus respectively – although we are one university we have different constitutions that is however aligned to the Student Constitution – I think the constitutional review committee and amendments that were passed in April 2021, will make this distinction more clearer and remove any ambiguity that does exist.

5.3. Appointment of Duties

One of the challenges I have faced is that members of the committee refuse to take up duties in light of optimal functioning of the TSP arguing that it is not in their constitutional mandate.

5.4. Access to funds

Another challenge that is inherent to TSP is access to funds to perform duties of the Parliament. Although money is set aside for the functioning of Tygerberg Student Parliament, accessing it is a tedious and time-consuming process.

6. Goals

Some of the goals I wish to achieve in the second term of my office include , but are not limited to :

- a) Getting feedback from TSR and emailing the concerns raised by students .
- b) Co-curricular Accreditation
- c) Be in contact with student governance having regular check ins via Teams .
- d) Teams meeting with the committee regularly , every 2 weeks .

7. Conclusion

In conclusion , I would like to state that the mandates given to me as per constitution were achieved within the first term . I would like to commit to upholding the highest standards of leadership in the practice of consultative governance, accountability and transparency while serving in the best interests of the Tygerberg Student Union. I would like to ensure that my term in office will be one of radical change within the student community of Stellenbosch University and in particular to the students of Tygerberg ! God bless Tygerberg !