



Student Parliament

Accountability, Transparency and Consultative Governance
UNIVERSITEIT IYUNIVESITHI STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

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Speaker and Chairperson Term Report 2

Preamble

The Position of Speaker and Chairperson's term started on 1 November and was filled in late September. From then on, Student Parliament has grown to fill all the positions required by the Constitution.

As Speaker, I am responsible of the day-to-day running of parliament, as well as being member to all structures Constituted by its Constitution. I must attend SRC meetings, presiding over all Parliament meetings, hold good relations with the Tygerberg Student Parliament, be responsible for Parliament funds, and function as spokesperson of Parliament. This report will detail the months from late April to early July.

Activities

Second Plenary Sitting

The second Sitting went smoothly. There was a lot of engagement and around one hundred students in attendance, which gives me hope for the coming Students' Assembly structure as there is now evidence of a growing awareness for Parliament. Growing from having twenty-five members in the last Sitting of 2021 to one hundred in a matter of 6 months.

The engagement was incredibly involved, and it enabled the outcome to be thoroughly thought out and as effective as possible in execution. The minutes of the Sitting can be found on the Student Parliament website.

Monthly Meetings with Chairperson (SRC) and Chief Justice (Student Court)

This term the three of us did not get a chance to meet for a meeting. It boiled down to conflicting schedules and a lot was going on in the leadership spear towards the end of the

term. It is, however, to be noted that wherever the need arose to have separate meetings and interactions, we took those opportunities to at least give updates to one another.

Relationship with Tygerberg Student Parliament

As with the first term, our two structures have had a strong working relationship, in where we have a strong line of communication and a willingness to assist in each other's affairs and as the drafting of the Student Imbizo and Assembly rules are still in development.

We attended each other's sittings on site and offered assistance and guidance where necessary. With this, there was also a lot of experiences shared and recommendations made on how our Sittings can have an increased visibility and interaction.

The New Structuring of Student Parliament

The Student Imbizo and Student Assembly Rules are still in development, but there is now an urgency to complete them since the elections will occur in the coming months for the two Houses being established. From Parliament's side, the delay is due to the influx of cases we have received at the Accountability Committee, which required the attention of at least the Steering Committee and one other Committee member.

As mentioned, the Rules are now of urgency, and we will be working for the coming weeks to ensure a speedy approval process before leaders of the new Houses are elected in.

North-West University Visit

The University of North-West's Mafikeng Campus leadership came down to Stellenbosch to experience what a Student Parliament would look like in action and attended the second Plenary Sitting this term. They report to have learned a lot from the visit. We hosted them for a dinner and we then, along with the SRC Vice-Chair and TSR Chair, offered advice to them on what to do and not do when starting a Parliament, as well as insight into the role it would play in the leadership sphere of their campus. We will be assisting them in this process.

We also advised that they include a Court when they create the Parliament, so that there is a check and balance when legislating, while given a secure channel for students to have their rights protected.

Co-Curricular Application

Madam Speaker Naidoo and I are working on a co-curricular application that will give accreditation on the transcript of the Committee members, as well as other stakeholders working within the Parliament organs and committees – via trainings.

The application is due in September and will at least give credit to any trainings are held before the due date.

More insight will be given on the progress and outcome of this in the Year Report.

Accountability Committee

The Accountability accumulated a few cases in the second term, after having to dismiss others from the first term that were not within our reach to investigate, or they were already being handled in other disciplinary channels.

The cases we have taken a while to finish largely because of the start of the investigations being a few weeks before the exams and recess period. These cases will be concluded in this term and be reported on at least the beginning of next term.

Policy Forum

The Policy Forum has started off on the right foot, with the Deputy Speaker Risimati having hosted an introductory meeting with the members and having begun the construction of a mandate for the Policy Forum that will also be relevant to the new coming Parliament structure. More accurate feedback can be found on the Secretary General's report.

Treasurer's Forum

The Executive Treasurer has begun meetings with the Treasurer's Forum to establish a working relationship with the Treasurers. An agreement was reached that a Processing Guide be established by altering the SRC one and having the context be in such a way as to have common ground in interpretation by the different structures. A greater update can be found in the Executive Treasurer's Report.

Remarks

Overall, I am incredibly happy with the team that has been formed, and everyone seems competent and willing to do the job. I look forward to more of the year with them.

Recommendations

The Student Imbizo and Assembly Rules are now of paramount concern, and they must be concluded as soon as possible.

X

Monwabisi Nhlanhla Vusumuzi Petersen
Speaker and Chairperson