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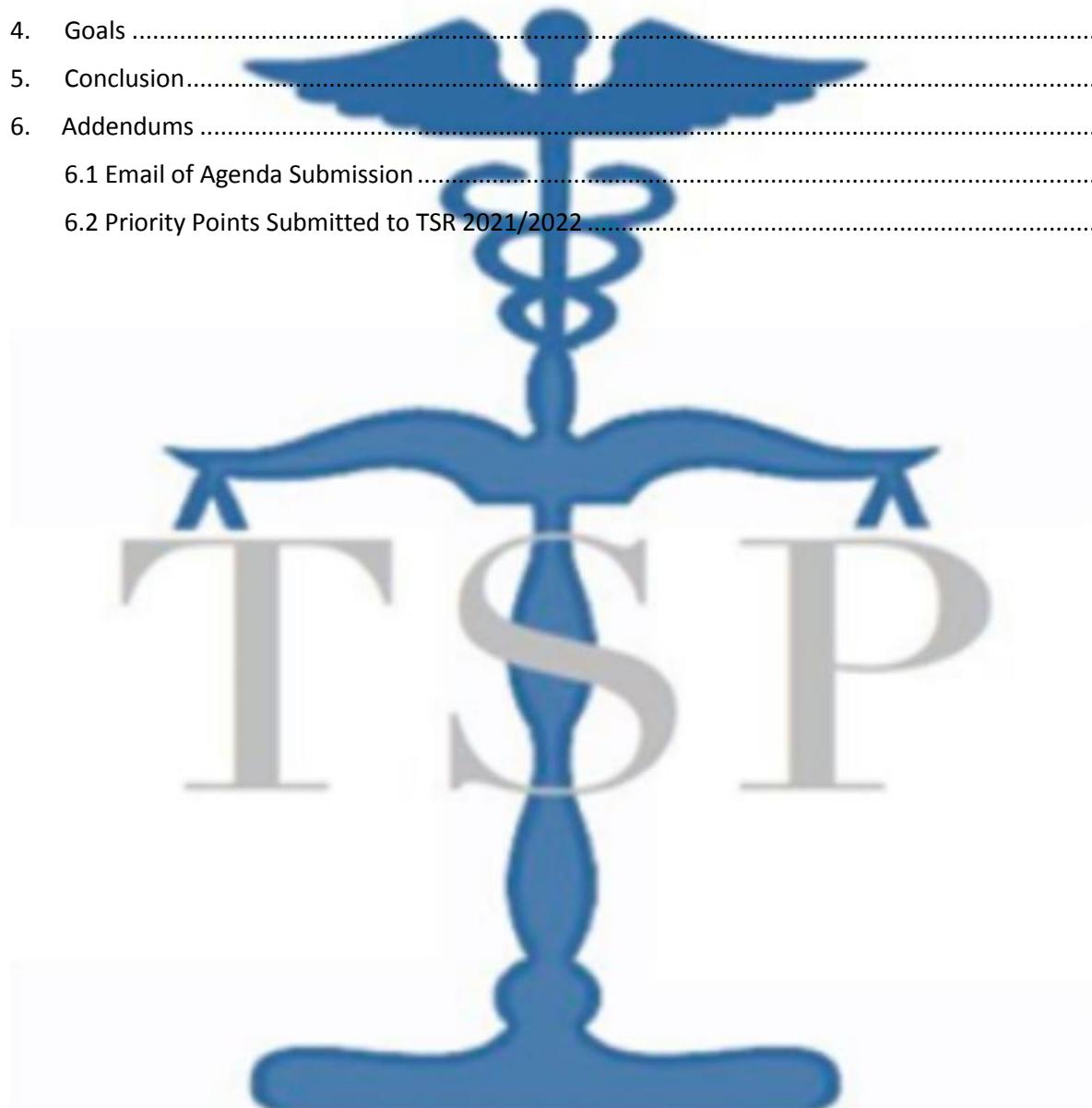
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## THIRD TERM REPORT OF THE SPEAKER/CHAIRPERSON

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## 1. Introduction

This is the third 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 third term respectively .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. Third Term

#### 3.1. Resignation of Secretary from Co-Curricula Panel

During the third term , I received a letter of resignation from the SG of where she stated that she can no longer represent the TSP on the co-curricular panel due to personal reasons . This was received although became difficult for the TSP considering we were already functioning on a reduced executive, following the resignation of our financial manager earlier in term two .

Between myself , and the Deputy Speaker , we then decided to share the tasks of the co-curricular application – this included attending regular meetings with Mr Comalie as well as Ms Roodt and assisting Stellenbosch Parliament with the application for co-curricula recognition .

#### 3.2. Constitutional Review Process

The TSPEC became actively involved in the process of amending the Student Parliament Constitution to align it with the recent amended Student Constitution – in which will make Student Parliament a bicameral system . This however was limited due to the restriction placed on the review committee , which only allowed law students to be apart of hence Tygerberg was then only represented by myself . This became difficult , especially to attend the meetings as they were scheduled during the day – in which I was in hospital . However , till date we still await the draft amended constitution to then align it specifically to Tygerberg – this as TSP is a substructure of Stellenbosch Parliament .

#### 3.3. Third Siting

The 3<sup>rd</sup> sitting was held on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 18h00 via Microsoft Teams due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions on gatherings. Submissions for agenda points were opened together with submission of priority points for the incoming TSR . We received two agenda points (email attached) as well as 7 priority points for the TSR . A further priority point was added a member of the TSU at the meeting – hence a total of 8 priority points was submitted to the TSR – of which were accepted.

#### 4. Goals

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

- a) Getting feedback from TSR relating to the priority points submitted and emailing the concerns raised by students .
- b) Co-curricular Accreditation Confirmation
- c) Be in contact with student governance having regular check ins via Teams .
- d) Teams meeting with the committee regularly , every 2 weeks .
- e) Co-ordinate a team-building session with the TSPEC , considering lockdown regulations now permits .
- f) Co-ordinate the interview and election of the new Speaker of TSP – together with ensuring a successful transition from myself to the Speaker-Elect.
- g) Appreciation of Student -Governance

#### 5. Conclusion

In conclusion , I would like to state that the mandates given to me as per constitution were achieved within the third 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.

God bless Tygerberg !

## 6. Addendums

### 6.1 Email of Agenda Submission

“ Good day members of the Tygerberg Student Parliament

1 - safety for students and staff for students who walk into campus.

With the start of the hard lockdown in March 2020, the number of pedestrian access points have been reduced. It has been reduced to the turnstiles on K-floor to the hospital and the turnstile closest to the vehicle entrance. The latter is known to be troublesome and doesn't always work. This leads to most pedestrians walking through the motor vehicle entrance alongside the cars. This is a huge concern of safety.

Can this issue be investigated? Can the other turnstiles be fixed and utilised? The turnstile closest to the Elective Accommodation and the turnstile at P11 has not been operating since the start of the pandemic. - Our daily monitoring app is checked when we enter the buildings not at the gate, so I don't see why the pedestrian access points remain limited in this way.

2 - Extended library hours.

I'm sure a large number of students would greatly appreciate and make use of extended library hours, especially with exams fast approaching. I recall in 2019 that the library closed at 23:00 on weekdays and was open on Saturday's, with students running the extended hours.

Could this matter be explored further? “

## 6.2 Priority Points Submitted to TSR 2021/2022

### Priority points

#### 1. Mental Health

Mental health is a very huge problem facing our society, more especially the youth. It is even more prevalent in the health care workers and students in the healthcare field alike. It is therefore of paramount importance that the incoming TSR prioritises the mental health of all students in the Tygerberg Campus. As the TSP we recognise the measurements that have been put in place to achieve this, but we believe more work still needs to be done. While counselling services are widely available on campus, access to them must be made easier to students and should not take a very long time to reach the students. In addition, most students who will seek help from these services are mostly likely to be already affected or suffering from a mental health issue, therefore, we would like the TSR to put forward preventative measures to ensure that it does not reach that point: prevention is always better than cure. We believe more mental health awareness programmes will help in this regard.

#### 2. TSS Food Prices

The current prices at the TSS shops are very high especially in the student community setting, where a large number of students depend on ample NSFAS and Bursary allowances. We would like the TSR to engage with Fedics in this regard and take this into consideration when setting up their prices, and not only consider maximising profit. In addition, the lack of other shops contributes to these high prices because Fedics enjoys its sole competition. We therefore feel an introduction of additional shops in the TSS would help a great deal and will allow students to have a privilege of choices. The previous TSR was working on bringing food trucks on some days of the week, it would be great if the current TSR can implement this initiative.

#### 3. Hydroboils in Lecture Halls

This would be ideal for students who make use of the lecture halls when studying especially during winter nights. We believe that this will be very convenient because students would have to walk all the way to their residences just to make coffee or have hot water.

#### **4. Parking Prices**

The students who make use of the parking spaces on campus feel that the prices for parking cars are very expensive. We therefore request the TSR to engage with relevant structures on behalf of these students to lower these prices, or at least provide an explanation as to why the prices are this high.

#### **5. Transition from Online to Physical Contacts**

As you all are aware that it has been more than a year that we had to do everything online due to the COVID-19 pandemic, students have since had minimal physical contact with each other, more especially 2020 and 2021 first years. These students have not had a full experience of the Campus life and interaction with their colleagues. As the country is relaxing the lockdown regulation and increasing the vaccine roll-out programme we will be moving back to normal soon. It is for this reason that we feel the TSR has to put up programmes that will help the student community in transitioning from online interactions to physical contact. We would love to see more sporting events between residences and even external campuses.

#### **6. Class Representative and Faculty Communication.**

The communication between students, the class representatives and the Lecturers has been poor especially for students who tested positive for COVID-19 who were left in the dark on measures put in place for them not to lose out on their academics during quarantine. We would like that this communication gap be looked into by the TSR and class representatives.

#### **7. Security on Campus.**

It is very important that students feel safe on campus. We have received some complaints from some students concerning their safety on campus and residence spaces. They have complained that fights have occurred during curfew hours and some were involving students that are not even residents. This is not only a safety risk but also a health risk in a time of a COVID pandemic. We would like the TSR to consult with campus security on measures to tighten security on campus.

## **8. COB closing date**

We have some enquiries from students as to why there must be a closing date to load for food quota, as this means students will not be able to make use of COB should they run out of quota before the end of the year, and this can have implications on food security. We are however cognisance that this is due to the University finances and financial policies. In this regard, the students would like that adequate continuous communication must be in place about these deadlines to ensure that the students do not miss them.

