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RECTOR'S MANAGEMENT REPORT TO COUNCIL

Thursday 2 December 2021

Prof WJS de Villiers,
Rector and Vice-Chancellor

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the fourth and final Council meeting of Stellenbosch University (SU) for 2021. This meeting takes place as the first round of the end-of-year examinations draws to a close, which confirms that we have managed to complete yet another successful academic year notwithstanding the challenges of the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic.

Amidst all the uncertainties that complicated short to medium-term planning of our academic activities, the second semester also brought a series of encouraging developments. First was the announcement that everyone 35 years and older could be vaccinated, and that the higher education sector had been prioritised for immunisation. Shortly thereafter, vaccinations were made available to everyone over 18 years of age. This was followed by government's announcement of adjusted alert level 1 with its various concessions, which have been in place since 1 October.

These developments facilitated the large-scale return of students and staff to our campuses, but also necessitated a swift change in our institutional approach to teaching, learning and assessment. At the start of the second semester, it meant moving from ERTLA (emergency remote teaching, learning and assessment) back to ARTLA (augmented remote teaching, learning and assessment). This took place amidst a public debate on mandatory vaccinations for students and staff as a prerequisite for physical presence in our lecture rooms and other facilities. (See Council's mandate to management on the issue of a vaccination policy/rule [here](#).)

Of course, the various levels of lockdown brought on by the COVID infection rate in the country have seen multiple switches in our academic delivery mode throughout the year. This placed our academic staff under huge strain and pushed their agility and grit to the limit. I would like to thank all for their gracious display of tenacity, which has become the hallmark of Team SU.

With the infection rate showing a significant reduction countrywide, and experts being more open to the possibility of the fourth wave not materialising to the extent initially anticipated, we are preparing for a full-blown return to in-person lectures and the classroom when the 2022 academic year starts. True to our commitment to data-informed decision making, however, we are monitoring the pandemic very closely to ensure that we can safely return to 'normal' in the new year.

Nevertheless, as responsible leaders of this high-ranking institution, we cannot and dare not be distracted from our key strategic objectives that will keep SU on track post-COVID-19. At our Institutional Planning Forum earlier this year, we took stock of our progress with the implementation and execution of our Strategic Framework 2019–2024. The general consensus at the time was that we were halfway there in terms of delivery.

At its summit on 23 and 24 August, the Rectorate further discussed the strategic areas that represent "gamechangers" with regard to the SU's future sustainability and success. These are:

- **programme renewal** (to continue to meet the requirements of the global economy);
- the **school/faculty model** (to streamline SU's academic, professional and research offering);
- unlocking **innovation and entrepreneurship** (encompassing learning, teaching, research and commercialisation);
- escalating SU's **hybrid model** (to penetrate and exploit new markets);
- **assessment** (new and appropriate modes to meet the requirements of modern commerce and industry);
- models to unlock **partnerships** in Africa and further afield; and
- our **digital transformation** strategy (to be properly equipped for the modern digital era).

All of these elements pertain to our larger academic project and call for immediate prioritisation and execution. Needless to say, this requires meticulous planning, sound teamwork, and particularly also significant resourcing and infrastructure provision.

With regard to the latter, I have provided detailed feedback on the infrastructure and capacity-building projects under way on our various campuses in my last few management reports. This has not gone by unnoticed. I have great pleasure in sharing with you the response from Tshiamo Moleme, director of Infrastructure Support at the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), to SU's report on the utilisation of its Infrastructure and Efficiency Grant (IEG) allocations for 1 April to 30 September 2021:

This is mind-boggling! I just spent over 40 minutes cross-checking the report against your annual reports, your allocation letter, and the expenditure by other universities. For your fifth IEG cycle, you spent, in one quarter, R315 million! That is more than what most universities spent over three years! Out of the 25 other universities, only one of them spent more than R315 million in three years. You are also executing a R1 billion project (biggest project in the system to date) as if you have never been affected by COVID-19.

Again, this is an endorsement of our staff's can-do spirit, which propels our institution to thrive in the face of adversity. Therefore, I am pleased to report that, despite the difficulties encountered during the 2021 academic year, SU is stronger and poised to triumph over whatever challenges the new year may hold.

With that said, let me also provide some feedback on two initiatives that will feature strongly in our future institutional and academic business, namely (i) the Language Policy Framework for Higher Education, and (ii) celebrating and promoting multilingualism at SU.

Language Policy Framework for Higher Education:

In a first [colloquium](#) on the way forward with the new [Language Policy Framework for Higher Education Institutions](#) in September, higher education representatives agreed that collaboration would be key. The event was initiated by the Universities South Africa (USAf) Community of Practice for the Teaching and Learning of African Languages (CoPAL) and hosted by SU.

The two-day online colloquium – the first in a series on the new Language Policy Framework – attracted nearly 200 participants. Delegates from across the higher education sector, including over 30 speakers from South African universities and the DHET, tackled issues of multilingualism and how to implement the DHET's new framework, which was published in October 2020. The framework specifically aims to “promote and strengthen the use of all official languages across all functional domains of public higher education”.

In my remarks at the colloquium, I fully endorsed collaboration between all institutions of higher learning to promote multilingualism as a mechanism to create space for the further development of African languages. I also again stressed SU's view that Afrikaans should be included in the DHET's list of indigenous languages. Afrikaans is currently excluded from the definition of indigenous languages.

Multilingualism at SU:

In celebration of multilingualism, SU academics, students and staff recently examined ways to integrate a multilingual mindset into teaching, learning and assessment at our institution.

These discussions took place at Language Day 2021 (*also see 1.7 in this report*) hosted by the Division of Learning and Teaching Enhancement, with the theme, “Language, learning, life! Implementing multilingualism @ SU in academic and social spaces”. [Click here](#) for a video.

In my opening remarks, I reiterated my view that multilingualism is part of South Africans' DNA. To me, the focus is not only on institutional multilingualism, but individual multilingualism as well. In other words, we not only seek to establish multilingual spaces at SU through, for instance, translation and interpreting, but we also actively encourage people to use multiple languages, even if they can understand or say only a few words. I am convinced that multilingualism is an asset, not something to shy away from, and should be embraced and celebrated.

As is customary, a member of the Rectorate will again be afforded the opportunity to submit an annual report to Council. This time, it is the turn of the **Deputy Vice-Chancellor (DVC): Learning and Teaching, Prof Deresh Ramjugernath**, who gets his first opportunity to report on activities in his responsibility centre the past year, having started in January. Therefore, this overall management report contains only selected highlights from his portfolio. Please consult his separate report for more details.

This report covers the period **28 August to 10 November 2021**, unless stated otherwise. My fellow members of management and I welcome this opportunity to engage with Council.

THEME 1: A THRIVING STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

In our [Vision 2040 and Strategic Framework 2019–2024](#) (click on the link for the complete document), we state the following in relation to this core strategic theme: “To make SU **a thriving organisation**, we envisage a **vibrant, prosperous and systemically sustainable** university (with ‘thriving’ defined as ‘being successful or making steady progress; prospering; flourishing’).

SU recognises the major challenges associated with developing into a thriving university. We acknowledge that we need to be both responsive and proactive in shaping the future of the University. We are committed to systemic sustainability, which includes people, place (social), prosperity (economic) and the environment and compels responsible corporate governance.”

1.1 Institutional Committee for Business Continuity (ICBC)

Workstream 1: Student services

Chair: Dr Ronel Retief

In the reporting period, the workstream for student services made the following recommendations to the ICBC:

- That the need for **additional funding** be flagged to enable the **Centre for Student Counselling and Development (CSCD)** to buy in more consultants to assist students struggling with significantly higher anxiety levels, depressive tendencies and suicidal ideation.
- That the recommendation regarding the **format of the December 2021 graduation ceremonies** be ratified. The proposed graduation schedule is again based on the hybrid model, which provides for small face-to-face ceremonies to award doctorates, honorary doctorates, the Chancellor’s Awards and the Chancellor’s Medal, along with faculty-specific online ceremonies to confer all other qualifications.
- That the release date of the faculty-specific online ceremonies coincides with the respective faculties’ face-to-face ceremony (or first face-to-face timeslot, in the event of multiple group allocations).
- That two **dates be determined for the discontinuation of studies**: one for students who did not write the A4 exams (31 August), and another for those who did (17 September).

In terms of sport, the workstream recommended that **residence sports** be put on hold because of:

- inconsistencies between indoor and outdoor sports;
- the number of activities and spectators involved;
- the restriction on visitors at residences; and
- the ongoing suspension of all social and other events in residences.

Going forward, the workstream will ensure that the suspension of general social events and residence sporting events is aligned.

The **2022 academic calendar** has been amended to accommodate the late release of matric results on 21 January 2022. The framework calendar has been published on SU's website ([click here](#)).

Workstream 2: Learning and teaching

Chair: Prof Deresh Ramjugernath

Issues dealt with by the workstream for learning and teaching are as follows:

- **Learning and teaching arrangements for 2022** in light of Council's mandate to management to work on a policy or rule for COVID vaccination. As part of the institution's vaccination policy/rule, the WLT has recommended a return to full face-to-face classes in 2022. This recommendation is subject to constraints imposed by the DHET's regulations at that time.
- **Mode of assessment for the second semester of 2021** – online or sit-down and invigilated. The workstream prioritises sit-down, invigilated assessments, with the exception of those modules for which this mode is not practically possible, and modules that have already been prepared for online assessments as per the original plan.
- **Poor attendance** of face-to-face learning opportunities
- In June, the ICBC resolved that the names of students eligible for **supplementary exams** after the first opportunity could be announced three days before the next opportunity instead of five days, due to the shortened academic calendar because of COVID-19. This arrangement was repeated for the end-of-year exams.

Workstream 3: Staff (human resources, health and well-being)

Chair: Prof Nico Koopman

Among the matters considered by the workstream for staff over the past while were vaccinations and staff's return to the office.

In terms of **vaccinations**, by early November, nearly 9 000 vaccine doses had been administered to staff (889), students (4 844) and community members (3 085) at SU's Lentelus vaccination site in Hammanshand Road, Stellenbosch.

The workstream also discussed the directive published by the Department of Employment and Labour in June, permitting employers to implement a **mandatory vaccination policy** for certain employees.

The workstream also provided guidance on **staff's return to SU's campuses** in the form of two documents produced in August and September respectively as the country first moved down to alert level 2 and then 1. It was confirmed that staff should start returning to their campus workplaces. This decision was based on the fact that SU remains a residential university, and that many tasks ultimately required physical presence on campus. Further considerations included the need for higher levels of engagement with colleagues and with the priorities at hand, the prevention of estrangement from campuses as primary spaces of work, and the strengthening of staff cohesion and collaboration.

The aim is to have all staff back on campus by the start of 2022. The necessary health and safety protocols will be strictly enforced. Should the campus or national situation change, this arrangement could be reviewed.

Workstream 4: Communications, social impact and external relations

Chair: Prof Hester Klopper

This workstream continued to ensure effective communication and liaison with staff, students and other stakeholders. In the reporting period, communication was focused on **COVID-19 vaccination**. The aim was to highlight the benefits of vaccination, persuade staff and students to receive the vaccine and allay vaccination fears. This was done through mass mailers, news articles, podcasts in which experts shared information, as well as answers to [frequently asked questions \(FAQs\)](#) and other information on a dedicated [vaccination web page](#).

An integrated campus campaign (including posters on campus and in residences) focused on **mask awareness**, while communication regarding **teaching and learning arrangements** was also distributed.

Workstream 5: Campus operations

Chair: Ms Nicolette van den Eijkel

The workstream for campus operations continues to implement the amended disaster regulations as the risk levels change.

During the third wave of the pandemic, there was a steep increase in **COVID-positive cases in residences**. However, protocols worked well, and the situation remained under control. Fellow students and residence heads made a significant contribution in supporting the students who were in isolation or quarantine.

While **safety ambassadors** continue to guide staff and students to adhere to the standard protocols of social distancing and mask wearing, not everyone complies.

Ramped-up cleaning of examination and test venues as well as high-use computer user areas continues across campus.

Workstream 6: Finance and Legal

Chair: Mr Manie Lombard

In addressing the financial implications of COVID-19 for SU, the workstream for finance and legal manages cash flow on a daily, monthly and annual basis, and makes adjustments as new information on the pandemic becomes available. In the reporting period, the workstream produced **longer-term projections up until 2027**. Management is satisfied that the current measures are adequate to ensure the financial sustainability of SU over a six-year planning horizon.

Workstream 7: Research

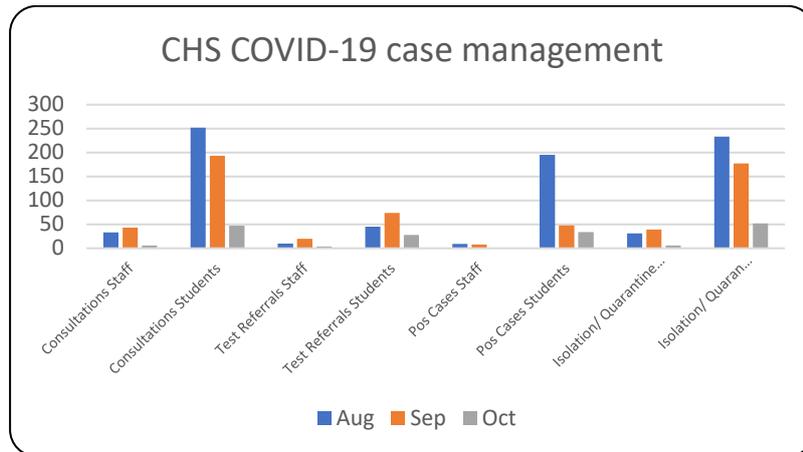
This workstream includes the Medical Advisory Committee, with Prof Eugene Cloete as chair. The workstream had no new matters to report this quarter.

1.2 Campus Health COVID-19 update

Our Campus Health Service (CHS) continues to play a leading role in the institutional response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

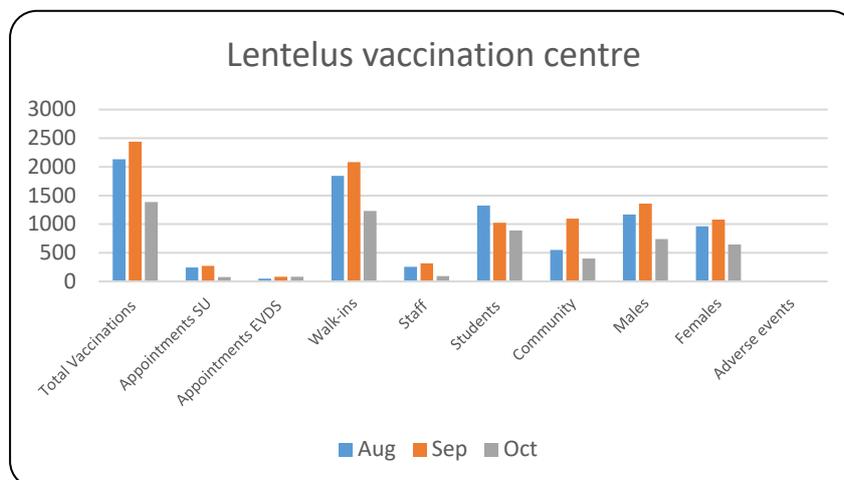
The graph below shows CHS staff's clinical response to COVID-19 cases on campus over the past few months. Numbers have declined since early October, indicating the end of the third wave. Weekly

reporting to the Rectorate continues, and SU's dedicated [webpage on COVID-19 infections](#) is regularly updated.



Since the start of the pandemic, sound relationships with the Western Cape Department of Health, Stellenbosch Hospital and Stellenbosch Municipality have ensured a collaborative approach to the fight against the virus.

This also resulted in the establishment of the Lentelus vaccination site as a secondary facility to Stellenbosch Hospital. Accessible to SU staff and students as well as members of the broader Stellenbosch community, the site is fully funded by SU and has vaccinated well over 9 000 people (55% of them students) in three months. See the figure below for more detailed statistics. The Lentelus site employs 15 staff members and can vaccinate up to 400 people a day.



In September two webinars featuring Prof Wolfgang Preiser and Dr Jantjie Taljaard from the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences were organised to address vaccine hesitancy in the SU community. [Click here](#) for a related video.

1.3 COVID-19 safety awareness campaign

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, our Corporate Communication and Marketing Division (CCMD) in 2020 initiated a COVID-19 safety awareness campaign, which has continued into 2021. The objective is to raise awareness of the pandemic and how to prevent virus transmission among the SU community.

The campaign is primarily run on social media. Our social media posts remind students of the importance of adhering to the COVID-19 safety protocols. Towards weekends, safety messages are

specifically tailored to focus on socialising responsibly, avoiding large gatherings, and adhering to curfew hours.

To keep the campaign fresh, a new look was implemented at the end of August. CCMD also continues to update campaign messaging to ensure that it addresses new issues or concerns that may arise.

1.4 COVID-19 vaccination campaign

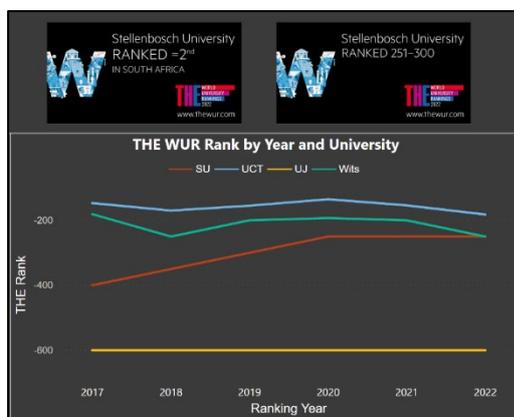
CCMD continues with SU's COVID-19 vaccination awareness campaign, which highlights facts about vaccination and encourages staff and students to receive the vaccine. The campaign themed "#Vaccinate: Let's move forward together" includes the following components:

- **Mass mailer and in-person appeals:** A [Stellenbosch University vaccination statement](#), which the Rectorate adopted on 15 September, was distributed to all staff and students. The statement was also placed on the University's website and social media channels. Those in support of the statement were encouraged to share it on their social media platforms. Staff and students also received an [appeal](#) from the ICBC to get vaccinated. Information on the Lentelus vaccination site is included in the weekly staff e-newsletter, info@stellenboschuni. In addition, information on how to register for vaccination and access other vaccination sites is being made available to staff and students on an ongoing basis.
- **Vaccination page:** A dedicated [vaccination webpage](#) was created to serve as a one-stop site for all vaccination information. It features information on the SU vaccination site, as well as links to the national Electronic Vaccination Data System, SU's vaccination registration portal and various vaccination sites. The page has been well received: Since inception, the English version has been viewed more than 21 000 times, and the Afrikaans page 1 979 times.
- **FAQs:** The vaccination page also features answers to [frequently asked questions \(FAQs\)](#) to provide reliable information and debunk myths about the vaccine. The FAQs are posted in the weekly staff newsletter as well as on SU's social media platforms, and are updated as new information becomes available.
- **Social media:** Ongoing posts on our social media platforms about vaccine registration, SU's own vaccination site as well as other sites generate significant engagement.
- **Selfie frame:** A digital selfie frame has been developed for Facebook users to show their support for vaccination. Short videos of students encouraging their peers to receive the jab have also been posted on social media.
- **News articles:** Various articles on vaccination and COVID-19 also featured on our corporate website in the reporting period, including the following:
 - [Council mandates urgent development of vaccination rule](#)
 - [#Vaccinate: Weeding our way through mistrust and misinformation](#)
 - [SU welcomes ground-breaking vaccine initiative](#)
 - [Classifying your cough: Is it Covid-19-related or not?](#)
 - [Sick of Covid-19 variants? You have the power to stop them from happening](#)
 - [Academic libraries help combat Covid-19 related fake news](#)
 - [South African health experts have identified a new lineage of SARS-CoV-2](#)
 - [Scientists unravel the Covid-19 pandemic](#)
- **Posters:** Posters promoting vaccination have been placed on lampposts along main walkways on our campuses. The posters have also been distributed to residences and projected on digital screens in various buildings.

- **Podcasts:** Podcasts featuring leading SU experts were recorded and shared via SU’s social media platforms and newsletters. These include the following:
 - [Taking part in SU’s vaccination drive](#)
 - [Allaying concerns about COVID-19 vaccines](#)
 - [Dealing with long-COVID in the workplace](#)
- **E-mail banner strip:** The banner strip that automatically accompanies all e-mails from sun.ac.za addresses has been updated to help promote vaccination. It clicks through to the [vaccination page](#) on our website.



1.5 SU rises on global university rankings



According to the 2022 Times Higher Education World University Rankings (THE WUR), SU is currently rated second in Africa, a position it shares with the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits).

The University of Cape Town (UCT) is Africa’s top university, sitting at joint 183rd position on the world rankings (along with the University of Notre Dame, United States). SU and Wits are both in the 251–300 bracket on the global rankings, while the University of Johannesburg (UJ) is in the 601–800 bracket (*see figure left*). The 2022 THE WUR includes more than 1 600 universities across 99 countries.

In addition, SU is ranked 24th overall on the 2022 THE Emerging Economies Rankings. This is a remarkable achievement, considering that a record number of universities (698 from 50 countries and regions) – 15% more than last year’s 606 – qualified for the 2022 rankings.

1.6 SU best in SA for Computer Science studies

SU is among the top 500 universities in the world for Computer Science studies, and the best in South Africa, according to the [2022 THE World University Subject Rankings for Computer Science](#).

We came in at 491. Another five South African universities have made the list: the University of Cape Town at 519, the University of Pretoria at 574, the University of KwaZulu-Natal at 689, the University of the Witwatersrand at 792, and Tshwane University of Technology at 887.

[Click here](#) for more.

1.7 SU Language Day

On 30 September, the SU Language Centre organised a [Language Day](#) with a focus on multilingualism. The theme was “Language, learning, life! Implementing multilingualism @SU in academic and social spaces”. Language Day was not about the Language Policy itself, but rather about our day-to-day approach to language at SU.

CCMD supported the Language Centre’s communication activities to create awareness of the event. The following items were issued:

- **Articles:** A series of articles focusing on multilingualism initiatives were published on the SU website, in the digital newsletter and on our social media platforms. These included:

- [Universities must join hands to enhance multilingualism](#)
 - [Multilingualism is part of South Africans' DNA](#)
 - [Cutting-edge SU lab studies science behind multilingualism](#)
 - [Translation connects people from diverse linguistic backgrounds](#)
 - [Resource material in isiXhosa for prospective students](#)
 - [‘Survival’ language courses foster individual multilingualism](#)
 - [Multilingualism helps forge new connections](#)
 - [Real-time online interpreting makes for inclusive and engaging learning](#)
 - [Learning a new language connects people from different cultures](#)
- **Podcasts:** Podcasts highlighting the importance of multilingualism in general, and of multilingualism in the higher education sector specifically, were recorded and distributed, including the following:
 - [Multilingual education](#)
 - [The multilingual journey](#)
 - [The multilingual mindset](#)
 - **Opinion pieces:** Two opinion pieces by SU experts appeared in the media. These focused on how translation helps connect people from diverse linguistic backgrounds. For more, see the addendum to this report.

1.8 Strategic fund

In 2021, R50 million was available for allocation to new Strategic Fund projects. These projects tie in with SU’s six core strategic themes, as set out in *Vision 2040 and Strategic Framework 2019–2024*. All funding applications were adjudicated by a grading panel consisting of three representatives from the faculties and three from the PASS environments. The application in category B was evaluated by an independent international panel.

The Strategic Fund Committee met on 17 June, 14 September and 10 November 2021. Having considered the applications and the grading panels’ feedback, the committee allocated funding to 11 new projects. The following table indicates the available funds, the number of applications received, and the number approved, all by funding category:

Strategic Fund Category	Available for 2021	Number of applications	
		Received	Approved
Category A (Strategic initiatives)	R25 million	16	7
Category B (Strategic high-rises)	R10 million	1	1
Category C (subcategories C.1.1 and C.1.2) (Strategic appointments)	R15 million	13	3

1.9 SU trademarks

SU’s Policy in Respect of the Use and Licensing of Stellenbosch University Trademarks guides and governs the approach to SU’s trademarks, being valuable institutional assets. The policy needs to be revised every five years from its date of implementation. The first version was implemented in October 2016. The Trademark Office in Innovus is currently revising the document, and the intention is for Council to consider and approve it in June 2022.

Moreover, the landing page of the [Innovus website](#) now contains a dedicated tab for trademarks, which will soon be populated with relevant information.

1.10 Rebranding SU together

Since SU's new brand identity was approved by Council in April and subsequently revealed to all internal stakeholders and alumni, a detailed project implementation plan has been developed. With thousands of brand assets, prioritisation is key, and a phased roll-out is being planned.

To ensure that all staff and students are equipped with the necessary tools and templates to start implementing the new brand, the brand manual and templates (letterheads, presentations, etc.) are being finalised. The first roll-out phase will then be activated in January 2022.

The rebranding project has also had several other outcomes in the reporting period:

- The Rectorate approved a new, uniform brand architecture. The new architecture includes all SU's diverse entities in a coherent, communicable way, ensuring that we exist harmoniously under one brand, while clearly differentiating ourselves from other market players.
- On 27 September, Council reaffirmed its commitment to a uniform brand for the University by ratifying the recommendation of its Executive Committee to replace the current heraldic crest with a ceremonial version of the new logo. A suggested design will be tabled at the Council meeting scheduled for April 2022, for consideration and approval.
- In October, CCMD started its engagement with entities across the institution to prepare for the planned implementation of the new brand identity. These engagements focus on the details of the new brand positioning strategy and brand identity, the nuts and bolts of the coherent brand architecture and visual identities, and the roll-out and implementation.
- In the week of 1 to 7 October, SU's new brand identity made its television debut in an [advertisement](#) on the Toyota SU Woordfees pop-up channel on DStv. The opportunity to showcase our new brand identity in South Africa's first-ever television-based arts festival was an ideal opportunity to share our historic rebranding with our stakeholders and the broader public. The new brand identity also appeared in a [print advertisement](#) published in a related newspaper supplement.
- CCMD also produced three inserts for the Woordfees pop-up channel where the new logo was on display. These were [The story of Pinotage](#), [Perseverance wins the day](#) and [Indigenous wood plays first violin](#).

1.11 Strategy, Global and Corporate Affairs

The responsibility centre (RC) for Strategy and Internationalisation is now known as Strategy, Global and Corporate Affairs. The Rectorate recently approved the new name.

With the establishment of Strategy and Internationalisation in August 2016, there were two distinct focus areas. The first was to support overall strategy development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation for the University as a whole, but also to ensure strategic alignment across RCs, faculties, entities, and PASS (professional and administrative support services) environments. The second was to provide strategic direction for internationalisation at SU. These two specific areas were consequently captured in the RC name.

However, since the addition of the divisions of Information Governance as well as Corporate Communication and Marketing to the RC in 2017 and 2019 respectively, a need for a new name had arisen to reflect the full range of integrated functions now housed in this responsibility centre. The new name – Strategy, Global and Corporate Affairs – not only refers to the functional units making up the RC, but also captures the RC's full value proposition and aligns SU with current global practice.

1.12 Systems renewal

SUNFin

Following an extensive replanning exercise, the Rectorate on 28 September approved the SUNFin steering committee's revised project approach, timeline and budget for SU's new financial system to **go live in June 2023**.

The SUNFin team has made good progress in the business delivery workstream, and the accounts receivable and expenses capabilities have been signed off. Work on accounts payable, budgetary control, cash management, inventory and the Planon integration continues. At the same time, the team is busy:

- building all the required integrations;
- preparing for training;
- cleaning up legacy data to make it easier to extract, transform and upload to Oracle Cloud Financials (OCF); and
- determining the best way to test the switchover from the legacy systems to OCF.

The project team has also undergone certain changes. Now that the revised project approach has been approved and the identified roles have been filled, the team is better positioned to achieve the project goals.

SUNStudent

The SUNStudent project focus over the past few months has been to support institutional priorities, particularly the processing of undergraduate and postgraduate applications and admissions.

The volume of undergraduate applications far exceeded expectations (with just over 55 000 applications received, compared to the normal 22 000–24 000, and just more than 102 000 programmes selected). This has placed an additional burden on the central Applications Office and faculties to review and process applications. The initial closing date for programme offer acceptance was moved from 30 September to 15 October so that more offers could be sent to applicants, and to afford applicants more time to receive and accept/reject offers. By 19 October, 9 490 programme offers had been accepted.

The undergraduate admissions process will continue until just before registration next year. Faculties will continue to monitor their applicants' acceptance statuses and provide offers to those waitlisted. This also applies to postgraduate applications, which have their own closing dates.

The short-term focus until the end of 2021 will be on ensuring that final programme offers to applicants can be issued and immediately accepted once the matric results are released in the latter half of January 2022. Other project activities for October 2021 to March 2022 include:

- the prioritisation of additional applications and admissions functionality;
- configuration of applications and admissions for the University of Stellenbosch Business School;
- configuration of the curriculum setup for registration; and
- agreement on the end-to-end processes for short courses.

The 2022 implementation roadmap for the rest of the SUNStudent capabilities has been approved. The intention is to have all the remaining capabilities ready to go live by the end of 2022. The capabilities will then **incrementally go live during 2023** based on the student administration lifecycle.

At the time of reporting, the project team was planning on hosting a virtual information session towards the middle of November 2021 to afford internal stakeholders the opportunity to obtain more information on the process.

SUNSet

During the replanning exercise for both SUNFin and SUNStudent, the IT integration delivery teams put significant effort into understanding the complicated technical cutover from the legacy Natural-Adabas applications to the new SUNStudent Academia and SUNFin OCF systems.

SUNSet is the project code name for the “sunsetting” (discontinuation) of remnant Natural-Adabas applications that will not be automatically replaced or superseded by SUNFin and SUNStudent. This has always been part of the plan, but the delays to SUNFin and SUNStudent has meant that SUNSet was also delayed.

In essence, therefore, SUNSet is a project to drive business decision-making and solution design and selection so that the remnant legacy applications may be terminated as soon as possible after the new systems have gone live. Addressing all the applications in SUNSet, however, is contingent on the finalisation of the SUNSet business model and business process decisions by Finance.

1.13 Risk management and security

The SU risk management programme has gradually gained maturity and is now embedded in strategic management processes.

Through this programme, managers identify risks timeously, conduct suitable risk assessments, and take appropriate steps to keep exposure at tolerable levels. During the past years, the risks identified in all the responsibility centres have been competently managed through the entire process, from newly identified to eventually removed from the risk register.

Some risks, however, are permanent. These include fire, facility maintenance, cybersecurity, social media impact and substance abuse. Reported criminal incidents also remain a problem, but have decreased significantly over the past few years. The graph below illustrates the long-term trend in criminal incidents reported to Campus Security since 2005:



Considering that 2021 has not yet ended, SU might end up recording more criminal incidents this year than in 2020. COVID-19 and the associated curfew have resulted in fewer incidents of crime. Still, one should expect that the gradual opening of the economy might coincide with more criminal activity on and around campus.

From January to mid-September 2021, Campus Security added over 2 100 early-warning alarms to SU's security setup. The upgraded system now also integrates with the closed-circuit television (CCTV) software, providing a pop-up screen with footage from any camera near an activated alarm sensor. The effective partnership between Campus Security, Property Services, IT and the alarm system service provider has significantly enhanced the functionality and effectiveness of SU's alarm and CCTV systems.

1.14 Campus renewal

Biomedical Research Institute

The Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences permitted early handover of a portion of levels 2 and 3 of the Biomedical Research Institute (BMRI) South building (phase 3) to continue with enabling works. These include asbestos removal, soft demolition and window replacement.

The enabling works commenced in July 2021 and have made good progress in the reporting period. This early start on phase 3 bodes well for on-time project completion, which is scheduled for the end of 2022. Work has also commenced on level 4 (*pictured alongside*).



SU Library upgrade

Due to the changing COVID-19 levels since the start of this project, work has been somewhat delayed. As no more than 250 people (both Library staff and construction workers) may be inside the building at any given time, access has also been challenging.

However, the staff and student ablutions are complete (*gender-neutral ablutions pictured alongside*), and the snagging and de-snagging process has started. The staff work and student loans areas are 90% complete, while the student study and work areas are 80% done. The new local area network (LAN) rooms have been completed. IT cable looming will commence once the cable trays have been installed.



New multipurpose Welgevallen sports field

A portion of Welgevallen farm will be turned into a cricket and rugby field managed by Maties Sport as per an agreement signed between SU and Paul Roos Gymnasium. The contract was awarded on 1 September. Clearing, grubbing and surveying of the site is currently under way. Completion is scheduled for mid-February 2022.



Polymer Science lab rebuild

A science laboratory on the ground level at the Polymer Science building was severely damaged by a fire in February 2021. A project was registered to fully restore the laboratory, service infrastructure and affected areas in the shortest possible time. The project was completed on 3 September (*left*).

Civil Engineering refurbishment

This refurbishment includes a full upgrade of the existing Civil Engineering building levels 1 to 4, and is planned to be completed by November 2022. It will provide additional lecture space and growth potential for the Engineering Faculty.

Engineering IT infrastructure

This project is critical for maintaining and increasing Engineering's teaching and operational capacity. The infrastructure will connect all the Faculty's buildings. Comprising 85 access holes and nearly 10 km of ducting, work started in February 2021. By mid-September, all construction had been completed and fibre connections and routes installed. All data routes will be activated as soon as testing has been completed.

1.15 Strategic infrastructure asset management

Infrastructure projects that have commenced or been completed in the reporting period include the following:

- Work on the medium-voltage microgrid substation at the corner of Hammanshand Road and Joubert Street has started. It will allow for the first-phase consolidation of the six municipal supply points from the Arts and Social Sciences, Neelsie, CGW Schumann, JC Smuts, Facilities Management and Engineering complexes. The project should be completed by 2022.
- Engineering's new heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) precinct plant will deliver substantial cuts in HVAC energy consumption, costs and carbon emissions.
- A new borehole project has been completed at the Mariendahl farm. This will provide potable water for the entire farm, ensuring water security at a lower cost to the University.
- The alarm replacement programme at Concordia, Harmonie and Lobelia residences as well as the CGW Schumann and JS Marais buildings has been completed. This upgrade has significantly improved risk monitoring and management at these buildings.
- Poles with power sockets to charge computers and mobile phones are being installed on Stellenbosch campus (*pictured alongside*), with more to follow before the end of the year. This is to cater to the needs of students who are increasingly studying outdoors to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.



1.16 Utilities management

A computerised system monitors, measures and provides dashboard displays of the consumption of all utilities (electricity, water and waste) on SU's Stellenbosch campus.

One of the primary objectives of a computerised utilities management system is to reduce consumption costs and carbon (greenhouse gas) emissions. The system enables the utilities teams to analyse data, predict future consumption and change machine settings to prevent spikes in electricity demand.

In 2021, consumption was almost back to normal for the most part as the institution returned to operational levels similar to those in 2019, prior to the pandemic.

1.17 Transformation initiatives

Renovations to the **Old Lückhoff School building** started in September. The focus of this first phase of the restoration is to address the damp interior walls of the building. The walls, which hold 100 years of history, have been treated and freshly painted to ensure the sustainability of the building, and as a symbolic gesture to restore relationships between the University and its surrounding communities.

The annual publication *Social Impact@SU* has been released in [English](#), [Afrikaans](#) and, for the first time, [isiXhosa](#).

The [social impact knowledge platform](#) is regularly updated to remain relevant and reflect the social impact efforts of the institution. It also continues to receive calls for the registration of social impact initiatives. A presentation on the work of the platform was made at the General Managers' Meeting.

The **Transformation Learning Network** is a series of online engagement opportunities for SU staff involved in transformation. The information sessions started in August and continued into September. The aim is to provide opportunities for learning and growth.

The SU Transformation Office hosted the third instalment in the **joint seminar series** of the Transformation Managers Forum and the *International Journal for Critical Diversity Studies* (IJCDs). The papers delivered at the event, which explored the development of a critical praxis of transformation in South African higher education, will be published in the IJCDs.

The guiding framework for the establishment and functioning of **faculty transformation committees** has been finalised for approval by the Institutional Transformation Committee. The same framework will also be considered for the establishment of transformation committees in the responsibility centres.

A reference group for the development of a **monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework** has been established. The group met for the first time on 29 October to discuss their terms of reference and will meet once a term.

Weekly conversations on diversity and transformation continue to be broadcast as part of the **Siyakhula Live show on MFM**. The aim is to develop a culture of diversity at SU and in the broader Maties community. Conversations in the reporting period centred on HIV/Aids awareness, prevention, support and management on campus, the story of Dulcie September, and an interview with the newly elected Students' Representative Council chair, Viwe Kobokana.

In September, the **Siyakhula workshop series** focused on decolonial dialogues, while the October series highlighted mediation, conflict resolution and workplace bullying.

A workshop on **SU values** was conducted to offer participants a chance to familiarise themselves with the University's values framework and make sense of value-based leadership.

Finally, the **SU Transformation Indaba** was hosted on 21 October. Among others, the event explored the role of faculties and responsibility centres in advancing transformation.

1.18 Annual social impact symposium

The Division of Social Impact hosted its annual symposium on 2 September 2021. Over 140 delegates tuned in for the online event, which was themed "Reviewing 'engaged' partnerships for social impact: Catalysing cross-sector partnerships for long-term social impact". More on the symposium presentations and outcomes is available [in this article](#).

1.19 Matie Community Service to be incorporated into Division of Social Impact

The activities, core functions and focus areas of Matie Community Service will be incorporated as a strategic portfolio into the Division of Social Impact. This will:

- enable SU to play an even bigger role in surrounding communities, thereby advancing engaged citizenship for students and community partners alike;
- promote training and partnership building in surrounding communities to facilitate transformation; and
- establish a stronger connection between the various portfolios in the Division of Social Impact, including the engaged citizenship portfolio, research, the social impact knowledge platform, communication and marketing, and other partnerships.

1.20 Best practice in institutional governance, compliance and risk management

The **Compliance Office** is assisting the Social and Business Ethics Committee of Council with a policy landscape analysis following a report on the status of SU's policies. A survey of all SU websites containing governance and other documents revealed 348 documents that were listed as policies, regulations, rules, etc. In the initial phase of the analysis, outdated documents were identified. The next phase will include tracking the status of documents, such as policy reviews or changes in document governance or ownership.

The **Legal Services Division** provided specialist support to the Language Policy review. They also assisted Information Management with the many Language Policy-related requests received in terms of the Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA).

Student Information System Support collaborated with the **Centre for Governance Function Support** to ensure smooth and orderly **institutional elections**. These included the election of Convocation's representatives in Council and the Institutional Forum (IF), Senate representatives in Council, and various committees.

Finally, the Centre for Governance Function Support **amended the year programme for 2022** following the Department of Basic Education's announcement that the Grade 12 results will be announced on 21 January 2022 only. The Executive Committee of Senate approved the amended programme. The [new term and examination dates](#) are available on the SU website.

1.21 Institutional committees

The **Institutional Secretariat** now also provides secretarial support to the Committee for the Naming of Buildings, Venues and Other Facilities/Premises, the Honorary Degrees Committee as well as the Bursaries and Loans Committee.

The rules of procedure for Rectorate meetings and the General Managers' Meeting were amended to ensure alignment with the SU Statute. The Rectorate approved these rules on 19 October. On 20 October, the Academic Planning Committee also approved a revised version of the Bursaries and Loans Committee regulations to ensure the effective functioning of this committee.

Institutional committee meetings now take place in one of three modes: **face-to-face**, with all attendees in the same physical space; **fully online**; or **hybrid**, which combines the face-to-face and online modes. Hybrid meetings are held to allow for the participation of key stakeholders who are not able to attend in person.

This change in the format of committee meetings has also changed the role of committee officers and others rendering support to committees. As a result, the Institutional Secretariat now offers **training for SU committee support staff** on request.

1.22 New webpage for Information Governance

The Division of Information Governance has a new, interactive [webpage](#) with links to all its services, statistical profiles and privacy impact assessment tools. While access to classified data might be restricted, web users have access to all other public statistical data. A PDF summary of Information Governance's portfolio, with links to webpages and contact details, may be downloaded [here](#).

1.23 Managing PAIA and POPIA

On 1 July 2021, the national responsibility for the Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA) shifted from the South African Human Rights Commission to the Information Regulator.

Our Division of Information Governance (IG) has started refreshing SU's PAIA-related documents to ensure compliance with changes in the PAIA landscape. This refresh also allows SU to reflect on the significant spike in the number of requests received in terms of PAIA since March 2021, and their increasing complexity and scope. Handling these requests has had a significant impact on the University's operations and demanded significant time and resources. Many lessons have been learnt in the process. For instance, a draft standard operating procedure has been developed that clarifies responsibilities and accountabilities for the handling of PAIA requests, including formal steps to ensure that stakeholders remain informed throughout the process.

Neither PAIA nor the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA) exists in isolation, however. The successful implementation of both laws relies on the maturity of other key areas at our institution, including information and cybersecurity, records management, research data management, research ethics, and even how we design our application forms.

Therefore, to help mature our policy landscape in this regard, IG has begun developing a suite of core policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. These include a regulation for information stewardship, a regulation for information classification, as well as universal support materials, such as an institutional glossary.

1.24 Faculty of Law celebrates 100 years

Our Faculty of Law celebrated its centenary with a special reunion weekend in September, jam-packed with activities to engage alumni and show them how valued they are.

Established in 1921, the Faculty remains the intellectual home of many judges, advocates, attorneys, captains of industry, business leaders, politicians and academics. [Click here](#) for more.

1.25 SU in the News (27 August to 26 October)

(All items in [blue](#) and [red](#) below are hyperlinked; please click to access.)

SU continued its **good showing** in the media in the period in review. It generated the highest number of general news clips of all South African universities for both August and September, according to the dataset of media monitoring agency PEAR.

With regard to the subset "Research and innovation", SU also generated the highest coverage for both months.

In terms of **faculty-related** coverage, Economic and Management Sciences continued to lead in terms of overall volume for August and September, although the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences also performed well.

Our experts continued to provide the media with valuable content and comment on **COVID-19**, further cementing the University's reputation as an innovative and socially responsible institution.

The various **institutional matters** that featured in the media over the reporting period included the following:

- [Kickoff for new football partnership](#) ([The Star](#), [Cape Argus](#), [Daily News](#), [Eikestadnuus](#))
- [Council mandates urgent development of vaccination rule](#) ([Die Burger](#), [Eikestadnuus](#), [Cape Argus](#), [News24](#))
- [SU welcomes ground-breaking vaccine initiative](#) ([Die Burger](#), [News24](#), [Business Live](#))
- [SU academics receive coveted literary prizes](#) ([Volksblad](#), [Beeld](#), [Die Burger](#))
- [Academic libraries help combat COVID-19-related fake news](#) ([The Star](#), [Eikestadnuus](#))
- [SU lecturer's photo novel helps in the fight against diabetes](#) ([Cape Argus](#), [Die Burger](#), [Times Live](#))
- [Stellenbosch University climbs on global university ranking](#) ([Die Burger](#), [Beeld](#), [Eikestadnuus](#), [Politicsweb](#))

The University's **media releases** remain a major source of publicity for the institution. Key releases in the past few months included the following:

- [Food labels: Researchers call for healthy choices to be the easy choice](#) ([eNCA](#), [Radio 702](#))
- [First global estimate of importance of pollinators for seed production in plants](#) ([The Witness](#), [Times Live](#), [Popular Mechanics](#))
- [Dr Erna Blancquaert receives bursary to become a Master of Wine](#) ([Cape Times](#), [Die Burger](#), [SABC3](#), [RSG](#))
- [SA needs more kidney disease specialists](#) ([Volksblad](#), [Times Live](#), [News24](#))
- [Mining companies paying lip service to sustainability](#) ([Green Building Africa](#))
- [First evidence of inflammatory micro clots in blood of individuals suffering from Long COVID](#) ([Cape Times](#), [The Mercury](#), [The Star](#), [Volksblad](#), [Die Burger](#), [eNCA](#), [Radio 702](#), [Cape Talk](#), [SAFM](#), [News24](#), [IOL](#))
- [Tuberculosis still an urgent priority in the time of Covid-19](#) ([The Star](#), [Pretoria News](#))
- [Stellenbosch doctor leads breakthrough research to combat pre-eclampsia, a deadly pregnancy complication](#) ([Die Burger](#), [IOL](#))
- [Microbial plant bioprocessing – what can we learn from the cow?](#) ([Nufarmer Africa](#), [Food & Beverage Reporter](#), [Farmer's Weekly](#))
- [Gangs exploit girls' vulnerabilities to lure them](#) ([Die Burger](#), [Weekend Argus](#), [Mail & Guardian](#))

SU's Language Policy and its review continued to receive a lot of media attention, and the Media Office responded to a good many media enquiries regarding language.

My article, "[Regte gesprek oor taal](#)", appeared in *Die Burger* on Saturday 9 October.

The University hosted a [colloquium](#) on the new Language Policy Framework for Public Higher Education Institutions at the end of September. Related articles that appeared in the media included the following:

- [Status van taal vereis regsadvies](#) ([Netwerk24/Die Burger](#))
- [Indigenous languages at forefront of new higher education policy but major compliance challenges remain](#) ([Daily Maverick](#))
- [Prof Wim de Villiers presentation: "The challenges in the implementation of the new language policy"](#) ([LitNet](#))
- [Language must facilitate access, success in education](#) ([Sowetan](#))
- [Talks to advance transformation in higher education](#) ([Pretoria News](#), [Cape Times](#), [Star](#))
- [Towards the intellectualisation of African languages](#) ([University World News](#))

Language pages on the University's website deal with the Language Policy revision (www.sun.ac.za/language) and [multilingualism](#) respectively.

Thought leadership: Our academic staff continue to make SU research accessible to external audiences by writing thought leadership pieces for [The Conversation](#). Over the reporting period, 12 of our contributors produced ten articles, which collectively yielded just over 364 000 reads.

Human capital: According to PEAR's media tracking of individuals at SU, the University's human capital was referred to in 258 media clippings in August and 198 in September. This is seen as a key contributor to media coverage, especially in the "Research and innovation" subset.

In addition, SU staff and students again produced a large number of **op-eds, features and columns** (see **ADDENDUM**). The Media Office also furnished the press with **lists of experts** to comment on the SU Language Day and World Food Day, among others.

1.26 'Review 2020'

In September, CCMD released [Review 2020](#). The publication accompanies the annual integrated report. It touches on some of the University's highlights over the particular reporting period, and also contains financial data about our operations. The publication was first shared in the [info@Stellenboschuni](mailto:info@ Stellenboschuni) newsletter. Thereafter, *Review 2020* was further publicised via a social media campaign, which highlighted a new snippet from the publication every week.

THEME 2: A TRANSFORMATIVE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

[Vision 2040 and Strategic Framework 2019–2024](#) states the following in relation to delivering a **transformative student experience**: "With this intention, we want to ensure that SU is accessible to qualifying students from all backgrounds, including to students who face barriers to participation in university education. We regard it as a journey – from our first contact with prospective students until they graduate and embrace the role of alumni." It also entails "the provision of opportunities for growth to all undergraduate and postgraduate students, including guidance, support and services from SU to enable their success."

2.1 Rector's Awards for Excellent Achievement

The Rector's Awards for Excellent Achievement were hosted on SU's YouTube channel and Facebook page on 7 October. The entire programme was pre-recorded at Die Stal. The theme of this year's event was "Excellence through adversity – moving forward together".

Out of 182 applications and nominations received, 82 top SU students were honoured for excellence in academics, leadership, social impact, culture, sport and service provision. The ceremony included entertainment by the SU Jazz Band, New Voice Sextet and a poetic performance by student Mandlenkosi Sixolo. Watch the event [here](#).

2.2 Students elect new SRC

SU students elected a new Students' Representative Council (SRC) in September. Ms Viwe Kobokana, a final-year BSc Human Life Sciences student hailing from Qonce (formerly King William's Town), is our new SRC chair. For more, [click here](#).

2.3 Advancing engaged citizenship

Matie Community Service presented a four-month online short course titled "Advancing engaged citizenship". The course enabled students to actively volunteer in support of national causes and campaigns across South Africa. It also provided SU students with an opportunity to gain work

experience, and helped prepare them for the workplace. Altogether 151 participants tuned in for the course. Social Work students completed the short course as part of their curriculum.

2.4 Maties Sport

Maties Sport dashed to the finish line this past quarter in terms of participating in and hosting events directly aimed at achieving their goals, both strategic and operational. Athletes could finally **return to competitions** after events had been cancelled due to COVID-19.

Seven Maties Parasport athletes and two coaches attended the **Paralympic Games** in Tokyo. Maties Sport and SU alumna Anruné Weyers (*right*) achieved a gold medal in the 400 m. This was her third Paralympic Games, having won silver at both Rio and London. Kerwin Noemdo (*far right*) finished fourth in the men's F46 shotput final with a new African record of 15,65 m, narrowly missing out on the bronze medal.



Although **Maties Netball** remained unbeaten in the Varsity Netball tournament and made it to the finals, they narrowly missed out on the title to Kovsies.

Maties Football, in turn, won the South African Football Association (SAFA) Western Cape regional and provincial league. They have subsequently been promoted to the ABC Motsepe league.

At the Federation of Africa University Sports (FASU) event, Maties Tennis's **Corin de Waal** won the tournament (*right*), while the **men's Rugby Sevens** team were runners-up in their competition.



Maties Sport athletes also participated in recent University Sports South Africa (USSA) events and achieved excellent results in swimming, netball, hockey, rowing, chess and canoeing.

2.5 Application process streamlined

The SUNStudent project has come a long way since applications for 2022 opened on 6 April 2021. Undergraduate applications have risen sharply: In fact, they more than doubled from approximately 22 000 last year to 55 000 by the closing date (end of July) this year.

This is a direct result of efforts to broaden access by removing obstacles during the application process. In the previous cycle, for instance, we required applicants to submit their applications, and then upload their documents in a second application step, which many applicants never completed. This time, we have done away with this two-pronged application approach, with applicants uploading and submitting their applications in a single-step process. We have also dropped the requirement of a signed student contract upon application. The signed contract is now only uploaded once an applicant accepts an offer.

Parents and applicants alike have commented on the ease of the new application process, and have also responded positively to now being able to select up to three programme choices on an application.

Approximately 65% (or 9 626) of applicants had **accepted their offers** by the end of October 2021. The following table provides a more detailed breakdown:

Nationality & Population group	Received at least one offer	Accepted offer (number)	Accepted offer (percentage)
International	703	423	60,2%
Black African	4 577	2 598	56,8%
Coloured	2 184	1 562	71,5%
Indian / Asian	963	596	61,9%
White	6 098	4 231	69,4%
Prefer not to say / Unknown	317	216	68,1%
Total	14 842	9 626	64,9%

Comparison with last year is tricky, as there was no option for acceptance of offers on the system at that stage. Therefore, the following table only shows the number of applicants who had *received* an offer by the end of October 2020, compared to applicants who had *accepted* an offer by the end of October 2021, by faculty:

Faculty	Offers made October 2020 (no option for acceptance of an offer in previous system)	SUNStudent Offer <u>accepted</u> October 2021
AgriSciences	699	713
Arts and Social Sciences	2 630	2 178
Economic and Management Sciences	3 322	2 521
Education	486	450
Engineering	1 674	1 203
Law	215	149
Medicine and Health Sciences	567	367
Military Science	1	0
Science	2 595	1 950
Theology	101	95
Grand Total	12 290	9 626

2.6 Engagements with prospective students

Our Centre for Student Recruitment and Career Advice (CSRC) continued with school engagements during the reporting period. A total of 448 schools and over 57 000 learners have been reached this year to date.

The engagements took place both in person and online, and ranged from traditional school presentations and exhibitions, to pre-recorded videos followed by online question-and-answer sessions.

Recruiters used various communication channels to maintain contact with schools, even in areas where technology is limited. E-mail, WhatsApp groups and the Maties website were some of the channels utilised. A list of [useful teacher resources](#) was compiled and a podcast series on programme choices produced.

Prospective students were also offered the opportunity to book individual sessions with one of four student advisors to discuss the SU application process and programmes. Some 285 of these sessions were scheduled with learners from all nine provinces as well as from Namibia and even as far afield as South Korea. Altogether 70% of these prospective students requested English sessions, and the rest preferred Afrikaans.

In addition to the individual sessions, the CSRC staff dealt with numerous daily phone calls and emails, and continued to offer a paid service where a career advice psychologist assesses and assists

prospective students. Careers@Maties, a project focused on conducting aptitude tests for black, coloured, Indian and Asian (BCIA) top achievers from 27 Western Cape schools, also continued.

The www.maties.com webpage, specifically designed for prospective students and their parents, offers a wide variety of useful information. At the time of drafting this report, it had received **nearly two million views**.

2.7 Maties 101

The Centre for Student Recruitment and Career Advice, in partnership with faculties and Corporate Communication and Marketing, hosted the [Maties 101](#) event on 20 October. The audience were Grade 12 learners who had received a conditional offer to study at SU in 2022.

As the name suggests, Maties 101 is an introduction to our University. It provides provisionally accepted students with “survival training” to ease their transition to university life – something that will be especially crucial for the 2022 intake because of the impact the pandemic has had on their final school year. It further aims to cultivate a connection between the learners and the University, and eventually have a positive impact on first-year registrations.

Like last year, Maties 101 was again a [pre-recorded](#) event with ten videos that were shared with more than 10 000 students and their parents. Therefore, participants were not only able to watch the videos as the event “premiered”, but prospective students without sufficient data at the time of the event could also return to the videos at a later stage.

2.8 Webinar for Grade 11 learners

Following on its successful webinar series hosted in 2020, the Centre for Student Recruitment and Career Advice again presented a three-part series this year.

The final instalment, hosted on 20 October, focused on Grade 11 learners. The webinar helped learners with the application process, introduced our undergraduate programmes, and highlighted the aspects setting SU apart from other institutions.

Altogether 555 participants from across the country tuned in – 46% from the Western Cape, 39% from Gauteng, 8% from KwaZulu-Natal, 3% from the Eastern Cape, and 5% from other provinces.

2.9 Resource material for prospective students now available in isiXhosa

For the first time, SU is providing isiXhosa-speaking prospective students with resource material in their home language to help them make informed subject and career choices. This information was previously offered in English and Afrikaans only.

The isiXhosa resource material was made available to schools on 30 September, for dissemination among their Grade 9 and 11 learners. Developed by our Centre for Student Recruitment and Career Advice (CSRC), the material includes a document with frequently asked questions, a booklet on subject choices and career advice, and a presentation video, all aimed at learners in Grade 9 and 11.

Similar material for Grade 12s will be made available to schools from February 2022.

The CSRC consists of a team of advisors who conduct school visits, expos and parent evenings, as well as educational psychologists who offer psychometric assessments for Grade 9 to 12 learners. In future, the Centre will also be visiting isiXhosa schools in our province with the facilitation of isiXhosa-speaking advisor Bongwiwe Mdingi.

2.10 Student accommodation

First-year residence placements and re-placements of existing students in undergraduate and senior residences are on track. The timeframe had to be adjusted in accordance with the A4 exam

timelines. Nevertheless, by the end of November, all first-year applicants will know in which residence they have been placed or to which private student community they have been allocated. All current students have already been informed of their accommodation status for 2022.

The University will again have 2 000 residence places available for first-years in 2022, which means that approximately 40% of the first-year enrolled pool can be accommodated in residence.

2.11 Exam innovations

The Centre for Student Administration successfully implemented a new examination answer book. Students can watch an instructional video online in either [English](#) or [Afrikaans](#).

On our Stellenbosch campus, the Centre also implemented an online submission portal for exam question papers. This forms part of efforts to facilitate increased digitalisation of processes, which is a priority of the responsibility centre of the Registrar.

2.12 Bridge the Gap

SU's Annual Fund is a fundraising initiative that invites alumni, the student community, staff, parents and friends of the University to support our students in overcoming the obstacles on their journey to success. The primary aim is to close the gap between talent and financial need.

In 2021, the Annual Fund operated under the banner Bridge the Gap, which was officially launched earlier this year. The initiative recently gained momentum during official visits to SU alumni and stakeholders in Europe. Through its various student community-led campaigns – #Move4Food, #Action4Inclusion, the Tygerberg Pantry Project, Caught in the Middle, #Zim4Zim, End Period Poverty, #GradMe and #MatiesHaveDrive – Bridge the Gap will provide for deserving students who need financial assistance. [Click here](#) for more information.

2.13 Repositioning of undergraduate bursary support

Since the undergraduate bursary support function has been repositioned, the Undergraduate Bursaries Office on Tygerberg campus now reports to the deputy director of Student Finances in the Finance Division. However, the existing structure of the Centre for Student Administration still supports Undergraduate Bursaries staff with day-to-day matters and strategic faculty or campus-specific needs.

2.14 Ikusasa Student Financial Aid Programme

The pre-final-year and final-year Ikusasa Student Financial Aid Programme (ISFAP) students are in the process of completing a graduate programme. The programme aims to prepare graduates for the world of work and enhance their employability.

Participants explore personal and professional skills such as decision making, critical thinking, problem solving and analysis. They are also assisted with CV writing and financial literacy skills.

2.15 New Dell Young Leaders cohort announced

The 2022 cohort of the Dell Young Leaders programme were announced on 15 October. The top 200 of the 409 applicants took part in virtual interviews between 9 and 15 September. The 150 top performers were eventually selected as Dell Young Leaders.

The Dell Young Leaders programme is housed in the responsibility centre of the Registrar and partners with all relevant SU offices to form an effective ecosystem that supports student access, persistence and success. The divisions of Alumni Relations and Student Affairs are key partners, as are the faculties.

The programme is funded by the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation. Yet SU has also committed to allocate more scholarship funds of its own to grow the number of students who will benefit as Dell Young Leaders, thereby doubling up on student success.

Launched in 2020, the programme will have taken in 1 000 students by 2024. Selection of the 2022 cohort brings the total number of active Dell Young Leaders at SU to 250, making it the largest foundation-led bursary programme at our university.

On 30 October, the latest cohort attended a face-to-face celebratory launch event. The Dell Young Leaders team and representatives from the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation were joined by SU colleagues from faculties and student support services in welcoming the students.

THEME 3: PURPOSEFUL PARTNERSHIPS AND INCLUSIVE NETWORKS

This core strategic theme is discussed as follows in [Vision 2040 and Strategic Framework 2019–2024](#): “As part of our mission, we at SU have declared our willingness to influence and change the world around us through collaboration, as well as to be responsive and embrace change ourselves. Central to the mission is the notion that what happens in the world shapes our research, teaching and learning as well as our engagement, and that what happens at our university matters to the world. As a university, we are committed to South Africa and Africa. At the same time, we are intensely aware of our role in and relation to the international arena. In order to inspire and be inspired, SU will **engage and collaborate** with **stakeholders**, the **communities** we serve, **industry, government** and our **university partners** at a **local, regional, continental** and **global** level. Our collaboration and engagement approach is congruent with our values, with specific reference to respect, compassion and equity.”

3.1 Stellenbosch International Academic Networks meeting

SU International hosted the 18th meeting of the Stellenbosch International Academic Networks (SIAN) from 13 to 15 October. SU’s university partners participate in this annual event.

Due to existing restrictions in terms of travel and gatherings, the meeting took place online. More than 120 participants registered. The programme consisted of various presentations on strategic initiatives at SU, as well as discussions regarding internationalisation. The latter included sessions on partnership development and globally networked learning.

Despite the virtual meeting mode, an effort was still made to give participants a “taste” of Stellenbosch and South Africa through interactive sessions. These included a bobotie master class, a virtual wine tasting with Beyers Truter, and a virtual campus tour. [Click here](#) for more.

3.2 Bilateral and multilateral engagements

In the reporting period, SU staff participated in 14 conferences and 12 important meetings with partner institutions.

These included governance meetings with the EUTOPIA Consortium’s new members, namely TU Dresden, Ca’Foscari University of Venice, and NOVA University Lisbon. Other key engagements were the VIU Academic Council meeting, and the meeting of the AC21 Consortium Steering Committee with the universities of Nagoya, Freiburg, Strasbourg, Nanjing, Adelaide and North Carolina State.

These meetings provided our staff with an opportunity to participate in presentations and discussions on an array of topics.

3.3 Talloires Network Leaders Conference

The triennial Talloires Network Leaders Conference took place in hybrid mode at the end of September. Tufts University's Tisch College of Civic Life and the Institute of Politics at Harvard Kennedy School were the hosts.

More than 400 universities worldwide belong to the Talloires Network of Engaged Universities, which focuses on strengthening institutions' social impact.

Conference participants included both academic and administrative staff, students and community partners. SU's Prof Nico Koopman (Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Social Impact, Transformation and Personnel), Dr Leslie van Rooi (senior director of Social Impact and Transformation) and third-year medical student Marc Nathanson each moderated an interactive session.

3.4 Community participation on Hardekraaltjie cemetery

SU has deepened its community participation process regarding the site previously known as Hardekraaltjie cemetery, which today forms part of Tygerberg campus. This restitution initiative started off with a remembrance event hosted on Heritage Day, and will also include a research project. For more details, [click here](#).

3.5 Stellenbosch Network

Initiated by Innovus and managed in close collaboration with SU, the Stellenbosch Network has already grown to 147 members. Its vision is to help position the Stellenbosch region internationally as an inclusive and interconnected African innovation hub and knowledge region.

In the past few months, the network hosted a number of events, including technology training workshops and a Smart City lecture series. They also shared entrepreneurs' stories via newsletters and social media. In addition, a supplier matchmaking platform has been created to boost local economic development, and the 2022 #Ideasforchange challenge has been launched.

The Stellenbosch Network's own entrepreneurial mentorship programme will draw to a close by late November. And through the network's facilitation, 15 Stellenbosch-based small-businessowners also recently completed the University of Stellenbosch Business School's small-business training.

3.6 Matie Shop

On 1 September, the Matie Shop opened on Tygerberg campus. This new initiative has taken over the management of the previous Tygerberg Students' Representative Council (TSR) shop. The facility, which now combines the two stores, supplies the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences with all academic clothing, consumables and equipment.

Moreover, from 2022, the Matie Shop will collaborate with Havaianas, one of the most recognised flip-flop brands in the world. By partnering with this brand and its marketing initiatives, the Matie Shop hopes to increase awareness of SU-branded apparel and boost sales.

3.7 SU Woordfees and SU Choir

The 22nd Toyota SU Woordfees was the first arts festival in South Africa to take place on a pop-up TV channel, Woordfees TV. The festival was broadcast countrywide on DStv channel 150 from 1 to 10 October, and was also available in Namibia on GOtv.

Over 300 artists and 200 technicians were involved in the production of content for the channel. A total of 71 new programmes were developed and more than 60 established productions were licensed to be broadcast over the ten days.

SU featured in various programmes: A series called *Beste Professor/ Professor Presenting*, comprising ten short TED Talks-style lectures by SU experts, were filmed especially for the channel. Firm festival favourites such as the Science Café and Philosophy Café also made their TV debut, while the [SU Choir were filmed at the Oude Libertas amphitheatre](#) in their first performance since lockdown.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the annual Sanlam WOW spelling bee was presented online from 12 to 20 October. However, WOW continued its arts development and recruitment initiative in the Southern Cape in partnership with SU's Drama and Music departments, specifically targeting the communities of Oudtshoorn and George.

3.8 Agreement with Stellenbosch Academy of Sport

In October, SU and the Stellenbosch Academy of Sport (SAS) signed a memorandum of understanding that will see the two entities collaborate until 2029.

The agreement endeavours to foster stronger ties between SU and SAS to develop quality soccer players for Stellenbosch and the greater Winelands community. At the same time, it seeks to provide holistic development to players, support staff as well as administrators.

In terms of the partnership, Stellenbosch Football Club will use the University's Lentelus football complex for training for three seasons, while the Danie Craven stadium will play host to Premier Soccer League (PSL) matches for nine seasons, all with effect from the upcoming season.

THEME 4: NETWORKED AND COLLABORATIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING

According to [Vision 2040 and Strategic Framework 2019–2024](#), this core strategic theme is about the following: "SU is embarking on a journey of **networked and collaborative teaching and learning** through the creation of learning communities where students, staff and alumni can experience meaningful learning. The University promotes a learning-centred approach to teaching that focuses on learning as a partnership, where students are seen as co-creators of knowledge and learning environments. Within a learning-centred approach, teaching activities facilitate knowledge-building and actively engage students in their own learning.

4.1 Extended Learning Spaces project

Phase 1A of the Extended Learning Spaces (ELS) project was completed at the end of October (*example of installed system pictured alongside*).

An ELS support service has also been established. It currently comprises five first-responder support officers who offer both physical and virtual assistance.

Information Technology's support officers are also available to render assistance through multiple channels during office hours.



4.2 Short courses

Statistics relating to Innovus short courses were made available in the reporting period. The number of short courses registered increased by 30 compared to 2020. Of the 320 SU short courses approved for presentation in 2021, 262 were either in blended-learning format or for fully online delivery on the [SUNOnline](#) platform.

Short-course participants showed an increase of 909 over last year. And of the 5 418 participants who had accessed the SUNOnline platform by the reporting date, 715 were international.

4.3 SU Library symposium

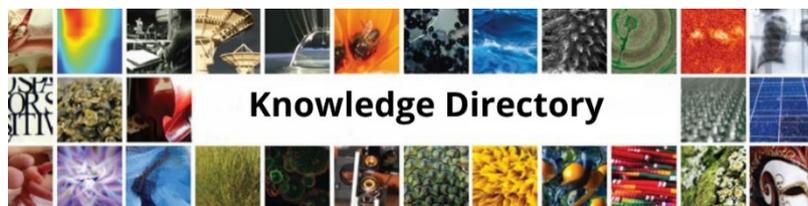
The 16th **SU Library symposium**, themed “*From hero to superhero: Agile, innovative, responsive libraries*”, took place in hybrid format at Lanzerac wine estate from 12 to 14 October.

Of the 172 delegates, 105 tuned in online. The South African participants were joined by counterparts from the United Kingdom, United States, the Netherlands, Brazil and the United Arab Emirates. In his keynote address, **Prof Kanshukan Rajaratnam**, director of the SU School for Data Science and Computational Thinking, spoke about the lessons learnt about the importance of open data during the pandemic.

THEME 5: RESEARCH FOR IMPACT

According to [Vision 2040 and Strategic Framework 2019–2024](#), “**Research for impact** at SU implies optimising the scientific, economic, social, scholarly and cultural impact of our research. Our focus is on interdisciplinary research that benefits society on a national, continental and global scale. At the same time, we are committed to basic and disciplinary research excellence, as it forms the basis for applied and translational research.”

5.1 Knowledge Directory increases research impact



SU recently relaunched its [Knowledge Directory](#), which was originally introduced in 2015 to increase the visibility of the University’s research expertise. The tool was co-

created by the Division of Research Development, the Postgraduate Office, SU International and the Division of Information Technology.

Through a web console featured on our corporate website, the directory enables easy access to information about the expertise of the University’s researchers. It adds value at multiple levels, including:

- allowing prospective postgraduate students to identify possible supervisors;
- serving as a source of information for the media;
- enabling research collaborators and industry partners to find SU experts; and
- promoting interdisciplinary networking among SU researchers.

Implementation of a completely overhauled system is on the cards for 2022.

5.2 ‘Research at SU’ showcases research on COVID-19

The [latest edition](#) of the multi-award-winning publication *Research at Stellenbosch University* is now available. Produced annually by the Division of Research Development (DRD), it is regarded as one of SU’s flagship publications.



This special edition showcases the interesting and innovative COVID-19 research conducted across all academic disciplines at SU during 2020. It features breakthroughs in medical explorations, highlights the important role of SU immunology experts in combating the virus, and looks at how biotechnology is being utilised to overcome COVID-19-related challenges. It also includes research on the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic, and shares how researchers and thought leaders in the humanities have responded to the crisis.

As part of its annual report, the DRD also compiled a [publication](#) featuring over 50 of our researchers' COVID-19-related editorials and opinion pieces produced between March 2020 and February 2021.

During the past few weeks, some of the highlights from *Research at Stellenbosch University* were featured on the University's [Facebook page](#). Watch [this video](#) for further context.

5.3 SU women in research

SU's research community includes women researchers with exceptional talent and innovative ideas, who deliver excellent research with relevant outcomes. Our Division of Research Development has established an [online platform](#) to acknowledge, honour and celebrate them.

Through their research, these women influence decision-making processes, advance sustainable development and help improve people's lives.

5.4 Spotlight on SU research chairs and centres of excellence

A new booklet provides a snapshot of SU's [research chairs and centres of excellence](#), which enable us to conduct research for impact and help develop local and global capacity.



SU's research chairs and centres of excellence prove are clearly aligned with South Africa's needs and priorities, as outlined in the Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) and the country's National Development Plan, as well as with the global sustainable development goals.

The booklet showcases the relevance of SU's research for society, and its contribution to improving societal conditions.

5.5 Horizon Europe

Horizon Europe, the European Union's research and innovation framework programme for the period 2021 to 2027, recently issued their latest call for applications. To date, SU has managed to secure total funding to the value of R26,5 million from this programme.

5.6 Wellcome Trust grants

Prof Bert Klumperman from the Department of Chemistry and Polymer Science and Dr Wynand Goosen from the Department of Biochemistry both received highly sought-after Wellcome Trust grants.

Prof Klumperman, with collaborator Prof Timothy Dafforn from the University of Birmingham, was awarded more than R28 million for membrane protein research. Dr Goosen, in turn, received just over R4 million to conduct research on the improved surveillance of zoonotic mycobacteria along with SU collaborator Prof Gerhard Walzl.

THEME 6: EMPLOYER OF CHOICE

In [Vision 2040 and Strategic Framework 2019–2024](#) our people are listed as our first “enabler”, an element “that make everything possible”. In terms of staff, this is attached to a core strategic theme, which is unpacked as follows: “In support of SU’s vision, mission, values and aspirations, it is imperative to support the health and wellbeing of our people. In SU’s pursuit to be the **employer of choice**, we envisage an enabling environment that includes the principles of co-creation, co-ownership and appropriate participation, and embodies the characteristics of an inclusive campus culture.”

6.1 Staff health and wellbeing

The Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) has held awareness meetings on its service offering to staff. As part of its prevention efforts to reduce risks in the workplace, the EAP also hosted webinars on COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy, mental health at work, and the importance of self-care. In addition, a dialogue on workplace boundaries explored miscommunication and the misinterpretation of messaging (and emojis) across different cultural, age and gender groups. This was done in collaboration with the Equality Unit.

6.2 Task team on staff incentives concludes work

The work of the task team on staff incentives was successfully concluded and submitted to the Rectorate. The proposal will first serve before the Remuneration Committee of Council for approval, and then be referred to Council for a final decision.

6.3 Review of performance management system

The review of SU’s performance management system is making steady progress. Approximately 80 staff members across all post levels have been consulted. The review, which is being carried out in collaboration with consulting firm Korn Ferry, will conclude by the end of the first term of 2022. Once this initiative has been completed, the career progression of staff in PASS environments will be dealt with, also in conjunction with Korn Ferry.

6.4 Bullying in the workplace

In October, the DVC: Learning and Teaching and the DVC: Social Impact, Transformation and Personnel jointly released a [communication](#) on SU’s zero-tolerance approach to workplace bullying. The communication defined workplace bullying and its impact, stressed the importance of reporting instances of bullying, and highlighted the support available to staff.

Workplace bullying goes against SU’s values of excellence, compassion, accountability, respect and equity, and its aim of being an employer of choice that provides a supportive, caring and inclusive workplace.

6.5 Staff achievements and appointments

Many of SU’s staff achieved exceptional milestones in their professional careers during the reporting period, including the following:

Robert Kotzé, SU International senior director, was awarded a long-service medal in recognition of his involvement in supporting the work of the [Confucius Institute at SU](#) (CISU) for more than a decade. CISU not only conducts extracurricular Chinese training at SU itself, but at schools and institutions in the broader Boland region as well.

Viticulturist and researcher **Dr Erna Blancquaert** has received a 2021 Taylor’s Port Golden Vines diversity scholarship. She is one of only two recipients worldwide. The bursary worth £55 000 allows

her to follow the internationally renowned Master of Wine programme of the Institute of Masters of Wine in the United Kingdom.

Two Creative Writing lecturers in our Department of Afrikaans and Dutch received coveted awards in the reporting period. **Dr Alfred Schaffer** received the prestigious PC Hooft prize, one of the highest literary awards in the Netherlands, and **Dr Willem Anker** was awarded the the kykNET-Rapport prize for fiction as well as the ATKV prose prize.

Anker was also honoured with an ATKV Woordveertjie, along with **Prof Stephanus Muller** and **Dr Stephanie Vos** – all for their extraordinary literary contributions. The Woordveertjies are awarded annually in recognition of exceptional achievements in Afrikaans literary art.

For the third time in her academic career as a chemist, **Dr Katherine de Villiers** has been honoured by the South African Chemical Institute (SACI) for her outstanding contribution to research in this field.

With effect from September, Private Law's **Prof Juanita Pienaar** commenced duty as the Law Faculty's very first Vice-Dean: Research and Internationalisation. And over at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, **Prof Karin Baatjes** was appointed as Vice-Dean: Learning and Teaching.

6.6 Online campaign showcases distinguished professors

The Division of Research Development recently launched an [online campaign](#) to raise the profile of some of our distinguished professors. SU's distinguished professorships were initiated in 2014. The accolade serves to recognise our very best academics who have reached the pinnacle of achievement in their university careers. We currently have 38 distinguished professors.

6.7 Inaugural lectures series

In March this year, the Rectorate and Deans' Forum decided to prioritise the inaugural lectures that were deferred in 2020, and to host them in hybrid format in 2021, subject to the lockdown level at the time. In the reporting period, we hosted five of these lectures, which are now available [online](#).

6.8 STIAS fellow wins Nobel Prize for literature

The 2021 Nobel Prize for Literature has been awarded to Tanzanian novelist **Abdulrazak Gurnah**, a fellow of the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (STIAS). The prize is in recognition of "his uncompromising and compassionate penetration of the effects of colonialism and the fate of the refugee in the gulf between cultures and continents".

STIAS is an autonomous research organisation hosted by Stellenbosch University (SU) at its historic Mostertsdrift Estate. It was established by a decision of the SU Council in 1999 and registered in 2007 as a section 21 (not-for-profit) company with its own board of directors.

In 2018, Gurnah was artist-in-residence at STIAS and presented a [public lecture](#) in which he outlined the challenges of achieving true "world literature". He then said: "Our desire for 'world literature' should be inspired by the idea of humanity without borders." His most recent novel, *Afterlives*, which he started working on while at STIAS, was published in 2020. For more, [click here](#).

CONCLUSION

SU has undoubtedly ended the 2021 academic year strongly, despite all the hurdles and challenges encountered along the way. With the commencement of the new academic year, we hope to return to “normal”. As this report shows, all the building blocks are in place to support our university in delivering on our mission as we journey forward together.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wim de Villiers', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

**Prof Wim de Villiers,
Rector and Vice-Chancellor**

ADDENDUM: OP-EDs AND COLUMNS

Opinion editorials (18 August to 2 November 2021)

AUTHOR	FROM (environment or division)	HEADLINE	PUBLICATION (click for article)
Prof Nox Makunga	Botany and Zoology	Women in science and tech are left out in the cold during pandemic	Times Live (18 Aug)
Prof Oliver Ruppel Cleo Dobers	Mercantile Law Master's student (Law)	Hesitation price tag: The humanitarian cost of failing to act on the climate crisis while we enter 'code red'	Daily Maverick (18 Aug)
Prof Wim de Villiers	Rector & Vice-Chancellor	Climate change is here, and we need to act now	News24 (19 Aug)
Prof Thuli Madonsela	Social Justice	The case for a solidarity tax	Financial Mail (19 Aug)
Prof Soraya Seedat	Psychiatry	Do sex differences in the highest echelons of leadership matter?	News24 (19 Aug)
Dr Tristen Taylor	Philosophy	A lesson still not learnt	LitNet (19 Aug)
Karen Bruns	Development and Alumni Relations	Vice-chancellors key in growing 'fourth-stream income'	University World News (19 Aug)
Dr Guy Lamb	Political Science	Gun control in South Africa: tightening the law, and more	The Conversation (19 Aug)
Nolwethu Jubase Dr Ross Shackleton & Prof John Measey	South African National Biodiversity Institute Centre for Invasion Biology	Help heroes fight invasive alien plants	Cape Times (20 Aug)
Prof Keymanthri Moodley	Centre for Medical Ethics and Law	Working women need to create space to recharge	The Star (20 Aug)
Dr Leslie van Rooi	Social Impact and Transformation	Vat hande oor taal	Rapport (22 Aug)
Logan Smith & Dr Hanél Sadie-van Gijzen	Centre for Cardiometabolic Research in Africa (CARMA)	Can the secret to weight loss be found in the spice aisle?	Health24 (24 Aug)
Dr Francois Cleophas	Sport Science	How colonial history shaped bodies and sport at the edges of empire	The Conversation (24 Aug)
Dr Chris Jones	Unit for Moral Leadership	'n Etiese rede vir inenting	Die Burger (25 Aug)
Dr Martin Gustafsson	Economics	A teacher retirement wave is about to hit South Africa: what it means for class size	The Conversation (26 Aug)
Prof Brian Ganson	Africa Centre for Dispute Settlement	Vaccine imperialism erodes faith in the market economy	Mail & Guardian (27 Aug)
Hugo Pienaar	Bureau for Economic Research (BER)	Jobs stats grim, but state can play big role in helping to fix things	Sunday Times (29 Aug)
Prof Amanda Gouws Simamkele Dlakavu	Political Science PhD student (Political Science)	How the commission was captured	City Press (29 Aug)
Prof Francois Vreÿ	Security Institute for Governance and Leadership in Africa	Mozambique insurgency: focus needs to shift to preventing criminality at sea	The Conversation (29 Aug)

AUTHOR	FROM (environment or division)	HEADLINE	PUBLICATION (click for article)
Prof Wolfgang Preiser Dr Cathrine Scheepers & Prof Penny Moore Jinal Bhiman Prof Marietjie Venter Prof Tulio de Oliveira	Medical Virology University of the Witwatersrand National Institute for Communicable Diseases University of Pretoria University of KwaZulu-Natal/SU School for Data Science and Computational Thinking	South African health experts have identified a new lineage of SARS-CoV-2: what's known so far	The Conversation (31 Aug)
Dr Jeanette de Klerk-Luttig	Unit for Moral Leadership	Onderwys: Die tyd raak min	Netwerk24 (2 Sep)
Dr Michelle Botha	Institute for Life Course Health Research	Charitable appeals feed into negative ideas about blindness	News24 (3 Sep)
Prof Ashraf Kagee Prof Mark Tomlinson	Psychology Institute for Life Course Health Research	Covid-19 vaccine hesitancy: A complex problem	News24 (3 Sep)
Prof George Claassen	Journalism	How a cult of ignorance endangers the fight against Covid-19	News24 (3 Sep)
Dr Pauline Hanekom	Centre for Pedagogy	Onward and upward: How digital skills help to change the lives and futures of children in Western Cape farm schools	Daily Maverick (6 Sep)
Anika Berning	Business Management	NGOs must be part and parcel of achieving global SDGs	Business Live (8 Sep)
Dorothy Stevens	Research Development	Postgraduate training: The art of study supervision	University World News (9 Sep)
Prof Lizette Rabe	Journalism	Hope: a noun and a verb	News24 (10 Sep)
Prof Jason Bantjes	Institute for Life Course Health Research	Digital interventions help to stem student suicide rates	Mail & Guardian (10 Sep)
Lindsay Mandy & Dr Derica Lambrechts	Political Science	Sacredness vs science in lion conservation: Environment Ministry opens up a very big can of worms	Daily Maverick (13 Sep)
Prof Nuraan Davids Prof Karolyn Tyson Prof Kevin Driscoll Dr Magali Della Sudda Dr Veronica Terriquez Prof Vivian Zayas	Education Policy Studies University of North Carolina University of Virginia Centre Emile Durkheim University of California, Los Angeles Cornell University	White privilege: what it is, what it means and why understanding it matters	The Conversation (13 Sep)
Dr Chris Jones	Unit for Moral Leadership	South Africa's arms exports to Saudi Arabia and the UAE fuel Yemen's humanitarian crisis	Daily Maverick (14 Sep)
Dr Anja Smith Jodi Wishnia & Shivani Ranchod	Economics Percept	We must look at the costs of NHI 20 years from now before rushing in – there are cheaper, more effective alternatives	Daily Maverick (15 Sep)

AUTHOR	FROM (environment or division)	HEADLINE	PUBLICATION (click for article)
Prof Sandra Liebenberg	Public Law	Making economic policy in South Africa in hard times: the role of human rights	The Conversation (16 Sep)
Dr Francois Cleophas	Sport Science	Spiere wat hul grense nie ken	Rapport (19 Sep)
Profs Elmien du Plessis & Willemien du Plessis	North-West University	The Expropriation Bill and the 18th Constitutional Amendment process: The cart is still behind the horse	Daily Maverick (20 Sep)
Profs Zsa-Zsa Boggenpoel & Juanita Pienaar	Public Law		
Prof Danie Brand	University of the Witwatersrand		
Jackie Dugard	University of the Free State		
Johan Lorenzen	Richard Spoor Attorneys		
Dr Sonja Strydom	Centre for Learning Technologies	Digital multitasking sends our brains into overdrive	Mail & Guardian (21 Sep)
Dr Elmien Sinclair & Christa Koch	Unit for Academic Counselling and Development		
Dr Hanél Sadie-van Gijzen	CARMA	Sick of Covid-19 variants? You have the power to stop them from happening	Health24 (22 Sep)
Prof Lou-Marié Kruger	Psychology	Ma's wat moord pleeg	Die Burger (23 Sep)
Prof Mias de Klerk	University of Stellenbosch Business School (USB)	Are antivaxxers' rights being trampled?	Mail & Guardian (23 Sep)
Dr Chris Jones	Unit for Moral Leadership	Our heritage is not just our past, we are creating it every day	News24 (24 Sep)
Prof Cas Wepener	Practical Theology and Missiology	Erfenisdag: Ons moet 'n anargistiese sop kook, nie braai nie	Vrye Weekblad (24 Sep)
Prof Mias de Klerk	USB	We risk thinking heritage is only about the past and not the future	Business Live (24 Sep)
Dr Bryan Sewell, Prof Ed Sturrock, Dr Lauren Arendse & Dr Jeremy Woodward	University of Cape Town	Want to develop vaccines in Africa? Then invest in expertise and infrastructure	The Conversation (26 Sep)
Prof Erick Strauss	Biochemistry		
Thandeka Moyo-Gwete	National Institute for Communicable Diseases		
Prof Wolf-Dieter Schubert	University of Pretoria		
Dr Collette Schulz-Herzenberg	Political Science	Young people are the neglected and often overlooked electoral power brokers – but only if they bother to vote	Daily Maverick (27 Sep)
Prof Lizette Rabe	Journalism	Régte nuus nou belangriker as ooit tevore	Netwerk24 (28 Sep)
Prof George Claassen	Journalism	Journalism is 'main vaccine against disinformation' – Why independence of the media matters	News24 (28 Sep)

AUTHOR	FROM (environment or division)	HEADLINE	PUBLICATION (click for article)
Marion Stevens Daphney Nozizwe Conco	Political Science University of the Witwatersrand	International Safe Abortion Day: New clinical guidelines for South Africa to empower healthcare workers	Daily Maverick (28 Sep)
Wandile Sihlobo	Agricultural Business Chamber/ Agricultural Economics	Positive growth for agriculture sector	The Herald (29 Sep)
Louw Pienaar & Ferdi Meyer Prof Nick Vink	Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy Agricultural Economics	No real evidence of concentration in the agriculture sector	Business Live (29 Sep)
Susan de Klerk Prof Harold Lesch	Occupational Therapy Afrikaans and Dutch	Translation, cross-cultural adaptation must benefit all	Cape Times (30 Sep)
Dr Kim Wallmach & Susan Lotz	Stellenbosch University Language Centre	Context, human connection and the issue with online translation apps	News24 (30 Sep)
Prof Aslam Fataar	Education Policy Studies	Gelowiges kan 'n verskil maak	Die Burger (1 Oct)
Prof Aslam Fataar	Education Policy Studies	Wat behoort die benadering teenoor godsdiens in skole te wees?	LitNet (1 Oct)
Prof Lizette Rabe	Journalism	Oefen ... as medisyne!	Netwerk24 (1 Oct)
Prof Nuraan Davids	Education Policy Studies	Moulood-un-Nabi: not a day but a lifetime	Muslim Views (1 Oct)
Dr Lee-Ann Steenkamp	USB	Spending South Africa's carbon tax revenues	Accountancy SA (1 Oct)
Schalk Engelbrecht	Centre for Applied Ethics	On fake news and information hygiene	Accountancy SA (1 Oct)
Prof Nuraan Davids	Education Policy Studies	In this Brave New World of online learning, teachers have to motivate their students to seek light and hope	Daily Maverick (3 Oct)
Wesley Macheso	PhD student (English)	Art's part in being African and queer	Mail & Guardian (3 Oct)
Dr Nadia Mans-Kemp	Business Management	South Africa is tightening its rules around executive pay, but gaps remain	The Conversation (5 Oct)
Prof Thuli Madonsela	Social Justice	The pursuit of social justice has become more critical than ever, but there are mountains to climb	Daily Maverick (5 Oct)
William Sezoe	BEd student	Afrikaanses van hul Suid-Afrikaans-wees onteien in erfenismaand?	LitNet (5 Oct)
Wandile Sihlobo	Agricultural Business Chamber/ Agricultural Economics	Get serious about agriculture this time	Business Day (6 Oct)
Prof Johann Kirsten	BER	Die tamentejje van reëls, regulasies en inspeksiedienste	Landbouweekblad (7 Oct)
Dr Palesa Natasha Mothapo	Research Development	Improving the plight of the postdoc during COVID and beyond	University World News (7 Oct)
Prof Lizette Rabe	Journalism	When I is replaced by We, illness becomes wellness	News24 (8 Oct)
Profs Ashraf Kagee & Katherine Sorsdahl	Alan Flisher Centre for Public Mental Health	Mental health services are not a luxury	News24 (9 Oct)
Prof Tina Steiner	English	Nobel winner Abdulrazak Gurnah's fiction traces small lives with wit and tenderness	The Conversation (9 Oct)
Prof Wim de Villiers	Rector and Vice-Chancellor	'Regte gesprek oor taal'	Die Burger (9 Oct)
Prof Cas Wepener	Practical Theology and Missiology	Grammatika van liefhê	Die Burger (9 Oct)
Prof Thuli Madonsela	Social Justice	Stand up for truth and justice to foster peace	City Press (10 Oct)

AUTHOR	FROM (environment or division)	HEADLINE	PUBLICATION (click for article)
Prof Christine Lochner	Psychiatry	'Mental Health in an unequal world'	Weekend Argus (11 Oct)
Drs Cyrill Walters & Armand Bam	USB	Working from home made women academics feel worse than ever about juggling roles	The Conversation (12 Oct)
Prof Pieter Gouws	Food Science	World Food Day: Food safety is a shared responsibility	Cape Times (13 Oct)
Wandile Sihlobo	Agricultural Business Chamber/ Agricultural Economics	Many challenges in expanding exports	The Herald (13 Oct)
Dr James Rodger	Faculty of Science postdoctoral fellow	Biodiversity depends on pollinators: a first estimate of how many plants rely on animals	The Conversation (14 Oct)
Prof Johann Kirsten & Helanya Fourie	BER	Municipalities can play a key role in South Africa's economic development. Here's how	The Conversation (15 Oct)
Dr Sonja Strydom	Centre for Learning Technologies	Ja, benut al die tegnologie, maar maak seker jy bly in beheer	Vrye Weekblad (15 Oct)
Dr Elmien Sinclair & Christa Koch	Unit for Academic Counselling and Development		
Dr Catherine Kaschula	Chemistry and Polymer Science	'Let food be thy medicine and medicine be thy food': Could that food be garlic?	Health24 (15 Oct)
Prof Lisanne du Plessis	Human Nutrition	How to get your kids to like vegetables and fruit – the younger they start, the better	Health24 (15 Oct)
Frederik van Dyk	Master's student (Law)	Beste EFF-kandidaat, jy is geen verraaiër, maar ...	Netwerk24 (17 Oct)
Wandile Sihlobo	Agricultural Business Chamber/ Agricultural Economics	SA becalmed in global food security rankings as other countries sail on	Business Live (19 Oct)
Dr Scott Drimie	Southern Africa Food Lab	Child-centric approach needed to achieve equitable food system	Business Live (20 Oct)
Yandiswa Mazwana	Masiphumelele Creative Hub		
Frederik van Dyk	Master's student (Law)	Die ANC-regering se totempaal-nasionalisme	LitNet (21 Oct)
Dane Isaacs	Human Sciences Research Council/Psychology	Recognise stuttering as a disability, not a shortcoming	Cape Times (22 Oct)
Candice Groenewald	Human Sciences Research Council		
Prof Maureen Robinson	Faculty of Education	What is the best way to train South Africa's teachers?	Mail & Guardian (22 Oct)
Prof Gert Uves van Zyl	Medical Virology	Technological advances helping in the fight against emerging infections	Health24 (26 Oct)
Dr Matsepo Ramaboli	African Microbiome Institute	Over 250 million people in Africa are malnourished and hungry	Cape Times (27 Oct)
Wandile Sihlobo	Agricultural Business Chamber/ Agricultural Economics	Rising input costs to squeeze farmers' profit margins	The Herald (27 Oct)
Prof Nicola de Jager	Political Science	Sub-Saharan Africa's liberty deficit: can civil society help fill the gap?	The Conversation (27 Oct)
Frederik van Dyk	Master's student (Law)	Taal op US: Sê jou sê	Die Burger (28 Oct)
Prof Riaan Rudman	School of Accountancy	Emergency online remote learning's unintended consequences	University World News (28 Oct)

AUTHOR	FROM (environment or division)	HEADLINE	PUBLICATION (click for article)
Dr Collette Schulz-Herzenberg	Political Science	With ANC and DA both facing credibility deficits, voter turnout is a key factor in the local elections	Daily Maverick (28 Oct)
Prof Johan Fourie	Economics	Interessante stories lê in vervelige rekords opgesluit	Vrye Weekblad (29 Oct)
Wandile Sihlobo Dr Tinashe Kapuya	Agricultural Business Chamber/ Agricultural Economics Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy	The EU's Green Deal: opportunities, threats and risks for South African agriculture	The Conversation (29 Oct)
Dr Philippa Kerr	Psychology	How to apply for a job in academia	Mail & Guardian (29 Oct)
Prof Nico Cloete	Centre of Excellence in Scientometrics and Science, Technology and Innovation Policy	Performance figures show Unisa's downward trend	Sunday Times (31 Oct)
Prof Thinus Booysen & Dr Arnold Rix	Electrical & Electronic Engineering	South Africa's power grid is under pressure: the how and the why	The Conversation (2 Nov)

Columns (18 August to 2 November 2021)

AUTHOR	FROM (environment or division)	HEADLINE	PUBLICATION (click for article)
Prof Johan Fourie	Economics	The future of art	Finweek (20 Aug)
		Waarop sal jy \$100 miljard plaas?	Rapport (12 Sep)
		The future of fast food	Finweek (24 Sep)
Prof Amanda Gouws	Political Science	Swangerskap: Dié syfers skok	Die Burger (24 Aug)
		Nóg 'n stukkie staat gekaap	Die Burger (7 Sep)
		Texas-wet maak wel in SA saak	Netwerk24 (21 Sep)
		Dieselfde hol kiesbeloftes	Die Burger (5 Oct)
		Raak die DA nou ook populisties?	Netwerk24 (19 Oct)
		Verkragting: Dís vroue se wêreld	Die Burger (2 Nov)
		Prof Jonathan Jansen	Educational Psychology
Ignore the anti-vax brigade and focus on the vax hesitant	Times Live (25 Aug)		
No more empty promises about Babita. SA wants the 'real killers' in the dock	Times Live (1 Sep)		
ANC reprieved? Zuma freed? Don't expect fairness in politics-obsessed SA	Times Live (8 Sep)		
Get them jabbed and back on campus, for all our sakes	Times Live (15 Sep)		
SA schools are killing fields and it is unacceptable	Times Live (22 Sep)		
This latest ANC vote-grabbing exercise is cynical in the extreme	Times Live (29 Sep)		
The DA has stooped to new lows of election hypocrisy	Times Live (6 Oct)		
Transformation must never be an excuse to let standards drop	Times Live (13 Oct)		
SA must recapture universities from unethical councils	Times Live (20 Oct)		
CSA has made Quinton a scapegoat for its Kock-ups	Times Live (27 Oct)		

AUTHOR	FROM (environment or division)	HEADLINE	PUBLICATION (click for article)
Dr Donald Katts	Practical Theology and Missiology	Tyd is kosbaar, maak seker jy benut dit goed	Netwerk24 (8 Sep)
		Moed hou is goed, maar ons moet dóén ook	Netwerk24 (6 Oct)
Prof Nico Koopman	Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Social Impact, Transformation and Personnel	Sewe deugde help ons besin oor inenting	Netwerk24 (1 Sep)
		Voor die Here is ons gelyk en goed genoeg	Die Burger (29 Sep)
		Dis jou plig as burger om te gaan stem	Die Burger (27 Oct)
Prof Michael le Cordeur	Curriculum Studies	Welstand van onderwysers is baie belangrik	Netwerk24 (31 Aug)
		Leerkragte se plig om skryf en lees te leer	Die Burger (13 Sep)
		Maak seker onderwysers is veilig by skole	Netwerk24 (28 Sep)
		Dán word jeug die brug na 'n nuwe lente	Netwerk24 (12 Oct)
		Alle leerlinge verdien om vereer te word	Die Burger (26 Oct)
Prof Reggie Nel	Dean: Theology	Laat jou inent, dis jou bydrae tot naastediens	Die Burger (25 Aug)
		As 'n braai ons dan verbind, hoekom nie?	Die Burger (22 Sep)
		Kom ons wees gemeenskappe wat hoop gee	Die Burger (20 Oct)
Hugo Pienaar	BER	Hoër rentekoerse: vroeër en geleidelik, of later en aggressief?	Vrye Weekblad (15 Oct)
Prof Anton van Niekerk	Philosophy	Daar is rede in bisarre wêreld	Die Burger (31 Aug)
		Waarheen met die bedelaars?	Netwerk24 (13 Sep)
		Waar is vandag se Bart Nels?	Netwerk24 (28 Sep)
		Inenting 'n saak van moraliteit	Die Burger (12 Oct)
		Wat doen ons met Verwoerd?	Die Burger (26 Oct)
Dr Leslie van Rooi	Senior Director: Social Impact and Transformation	Kan ons mekaar se stories deel?	Netwerk24 (26 Aug)
		Hardekraaltjie nou deel van ons gesamentlike erfenis	Netwerk24 (7 Oct)
		Dink ons nou anders oor 'wokeness'?	Netwerk24 (28 Oct)

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