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| **Portfolio:** | Sustainability and Innovation Manager |
| **Subject:** | First Term Report |
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# Constitutional Responsibilities

The Sustainability & Innovation Portfolio thus far has no constitutionally prescribed responsibilities however, this portfolio is of great importance for the student body in order for the University to be able to cultivate a culture where students engage with issues of sustainability and which areas the Stellenbosch University has made progress in its effort to create a more sustainable institution.

As managers are constitutionally required to attend one meeting per term, on the 20th of March, I attended the Extraordinary SRC Meeting. The two-hour virtual meeting took place on Microsoft Teams.

# Portfolio Overview

The role and function of the Sustainability and Innovation portfolio is to broaden student engagement and knowledge on issues pertaining to sustainability.

**Portfolio Description**

For the year 2020, this portfolio is responsible for creating a socio-ecologically aware student body, especially regarding the sustainability principles and initiatives already undertaken by SU.

Furthermore, it is responsible for the encouragement and facilitation of sustainable practice by the SRC, student body and University as a whole.

As a proponent for student innovation, it seeks to work with the LaunchLab to generate entrepreneurial ideas from students which are aimed at socio-ecological challenges in their respective contexts.

**Vision**

My vision for the portfolio is for it to serve as a vehicle for increased student awareness and engagement of issues pertaining to sustainability, both in their university context and beyond.

In addition, the Sustainability portfolio should foster a process whereby the University maximises on its efforts to be environmentally conscious and eco-friendly. In this case, my ultimate goal is moving towards a system of digitising submissions of student assignments as the University currently contributes to the unsustainable use of paper at a mass scale.

Also, exploring the scaling up of recycling initiatives by the University, and use of the recycled material, by encouraging more students to deposit their used notes is of concern.

Furthermore, it envisages the continuation of the support of students’ innovation capabilities through collaboration with Launch!US. Such innovation capabilities would ideally be directed at relevant challenges, in the universities or surrounding community, which the students’ efforts seek to address.

# Committees / Task Teams

## As of yet, I solely serve as Sustainability Manager for the Student Representative Council.

# Budget Overview

# As my term begun approximately a month ago, I have not used any funds.

The Total Budget Value of this portfolio is R11 000.

A breakdown of the planned use of funds is as follows:

* IdeaSmash (no more than R5000)
* Sustainability Week (minimum of R5000)
* Printing Costs (R1000)

# Term Overview

As mentioned under Constitutional Responsibilities, as Sustainability Manager, I have attended the Extraordinary SRC Meeting, which took place over Microsoft Teams on the 20th of March, 2020.

Furthermore, I have completed 7 SRC Office Duty shifts in the two weeks prior to the University shutdown (amounting to seven hours), where SRC members were designated shifts.

So far in Term 1, I have undertaken the following activities:

(headings are broad descriptions of areas of concentration)

**Enhancing Student Access to Information:**

* Create Content: aimed at increasing students’ access to info regarding SU initiatives to be environmentally conscious and sustainable. I intend for this content is to be incorporated into Die Matie, SU Social Media pages, Emailed Newsletters etc..
* NOTE: due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I have taken the decision to disseminate “sustainability content” after the chaos has subsided and once the students resume their academic activities. Reason being that students are very concerned with the current global crisis thus efforts to promulgate student engagement on issues of sustainability would be futile at this point in time.

**Saving Paper by Going Digital:**

* Visited IT Hub and got information on how software/cloud used by SU could support a process of digitisation and submission online.

During the recess period, a list of technologies or applications through which assignments can be submitted online will be complied. Furthermore, costs of such technologies will be checked. These will form a part of a Report to be presented tob the Universities management at a later stage.

# Plans for Next Academic Term

**Enhancing Student Access to Information:**

* Distribute content to aforementioned parties
* Commence planning for Sustainability Week (which will take place during the months of either August or September)

**Saving Paper by Going Digital:**

* Draw up report proposing the idea behind paper-saving through digitisation for Vice-Chancellor/University Management (or whichever constituent receives propositions for such an initiative)

**Other Green Initiatives**

* Student notes to be recycled: find out companies/businesses can treat the paper and repurpose it - check for prices, sponsorships and potential uses for recycled paper
* Send out information of “Notes Recycling Drive” - Collab with Bib on their notes drop-off initiative
* Send out brief to Student Reps with regards to spreading the word about depositing their notes in the bib
* Gather information on the Food Waste system of all university campuses and explore feasibility of integrating all campuses in the food waste management system. As currently, only the Stellenbosch, Tygerburg and Bellville campuses make use of the food waste management system.

**Innovation**

Liaise with LaunchLab regarding IdeaSmash and explore involvement of the Sustainability portfolio in this established activity.

# Recommendations for Portfolio Improvement

This portfolio can be improved through the building of a network of contacts which will be able to assist with the various initiatives and projects which are being embarked upon.

Furthermore, as no students applied for the position in the Sub-Committee for this portfolio, with the exception of one student. In order to broaden the team, another, shorter and more targeted, recruitment process will take place in the second term in order to gain 2 more students to form a part of the Sub-Committee.

# Important Contacts

Allister (IT Hub Manager): [allister@sun.ac.za](mailto:allister@sun.ac.za) / 021 808 4367

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