



STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL
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POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS PORTFOLIO 2023

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Students Representative Council
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Generals

Portfolio Description

The role of the Postgraduate Students Portfolio is to inform SRC projects on the impact on Postgraduate students. They Initiate projects to allow for Postgraduate students' involvement on campuses and ensure acclimatisation and orientation for Postgraduate students. This portfolio Liaises with the Postgraduate Office, Senior Prim Committee and Academic Affairs Council.

Portfolio Mission

The mission of the Postgraduate Students Portfolio is to improve the quality of the postgraduate student experience at Stellenbosch University by fostering collaboration between various student and administrative structures, with postgraduate students at the forefront of all decisions.

Task

A meeting with Dorothy, Steven and Nugent Lewis and the Postgraduate teams- discussion about how the Postgraduate Office can best interface with you during your term of office around some of the needs of postgraduate students. Discussing the role of the postgraduate portfolio, who is the audience the postgraduate officer is representing; and lighting what constitutes the needs of the postgraduates.

Meetings with several stakeholders to discuss the University Postgraduate Welcoming Program (senior welcoming) via Microsoft teams. The collaboration between the Senior Prim Committee, the .Net community (consists of Rubix.net, amaMaties.net and Wimbledon.net which cater specifically for senior and postgraduate students not living in senior residences) together CSC, the Alumni office and others. I also attended the research Indaba. The Indaba's purpose was to give researchers from SU's 10 Faculties a forum to discuss and debate issues of shared interest.



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The emphasis was on Research for Impact, one of SU's major strategic topics. What does the term "impact" mean, how is SU's research now progressing, how do we define success, what conditions must be met for the new strategic research fields to be productive, and how can it support environmental strategic initiatives? What will be the main emphasis over the following several years to strengthen and expand SU's research portfolio.

Moreover, I participated in the Senior Institutional Welcoming Check-in with external stakeholders and potential facilitators. to finalize the senior and postgraduate welcoming. I also participated in the "Dream Walk" with the rest of the postgraduate students, which is a program that marks the beginning of many newcomers' SU travels by giving them cards on which to put their personal goals. Then, along the dream walk route, these cards are left at various locations, including Victoria Street. The resident brings the most newcomers to the Dream Walk.

4 February Net Soiree

the face-to-face event facilitated by Tendani, the event was centred on the senior welcoming program, which was aimed to utilise this gathering to build awareness, momentum and understanding of the role and purpose of the .Net community within Stellenbosch University – that is, integrating (re-integrating) senior students into the Stellenbosch University (SU) ecosystem by serving, supporting and equipping individuals with the necessities required for the successful completion of their studies. Furthermore, it aims to provide our community members with a better sense of the amazing work done by key role players, such as yourself, to support senior students and better the student experience SU strives for.

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Plan for the next term

Events/projects to be implemented.

Welcoming and Orientation: Information Sessions

Goals: Introduce the Postgraduate Students Portfolio, along with other key resources to postgraduate students. Further, foster collaboration by hosting the sessions in conjunction with welcoming and orientation programs of the SLS cluster, Dot Net Postgraduate communities and the Postgraduate Office orientation programme.

Information sessions will push the mandate of education and holistic wellness by equipping postgraduate students with the contact information of key stakeholders within the university to help them further their academic and co-curricular goals.

Projects

Coordinate advanced bursary pay-outs in time for leases.

Goals: Ensure that each postgraduate student who needs an advance of their bursary to cover accommodation costs receives it in time. While there is no formal application process for this, the Postgraduate Office has agreed to assist on a case-by-case basis.

Date: February/March 2023

This project will push the mandate of universal access and holistic wellness by ensuring no postgraduate students are financially excluded from private accommodation in Stellenbosch and by relieving the stress associated with waiting for bursary payouts.

Develop usage of MOUs and progress reports

Goals: Ensure that MoUs are signed between postgraduate students and supervisors across all faculties. Explore ways in which the same could be done for biannual progress reports. This will be done in collaboration with the Postgraduate Office and will be a long-term project which will not be finalised in one SRC term.

Date: March 2023 for MoUs

This project will push the mandate of education and holistic wellness providing postgraduate students with a “contract” between them and their supervisor ensuring that they know what is expected of them and what they can expect from their supervisor. With this knowledge, they will be equipped to keep their supervisors accountable.



Develop AAC representation for postgraduate students.

Goals: Ensure that each faculty-student committee has a Postgraduate Students Portfolio. This will entail collaboration with each of the structures to find a suitable model of representation that will work for their postgraduate students.

Ideal model: One Postgraduate Students Portfolio holder who oversees a substructure consisting of one postgraduate representative from each department in the faculty. Representation in student-faculty committees will promote all three mandates of this SRC by equipping postgraduate students with access to their respective faculty management structures ensuring that all decisions taken by faculties have the interests of postgraduate students at the forefront.

Calendar for postgraduate events

Goals: Create a platform/link on My.SUN, where events/deadlines from all stakeholders on campus that will be either targeted at postgraduate students or be of value to postgraduate students can be uploaded and viewed at any time. Examples include thesis submission deadlines, workshop dates, recreational events like Varsity Cup, international mixers, SU Acapella etc. This will involve collaboration with various offices within Student Affairs, the Postgraduate Office, the AAC and SLS cluster. This project will promote all three mandates of this SRC, especially universal access in that more postgraduate students will be able to take advantage of the offerings catered to them if they have access to the information in one central location.



Collaboration with other student leaders

SLS cluster leadership: Communication will take place in person and via email, and will entail organizing the events around the welcoming and orientation of postgraduate students, and planning and execution of the postgraduate calendar.

Senior Prim Committee: Communication will either take place in person, online and via email, which will entail organizing the events around the welcoming and orientation of postgraduate students. General ad hoc issues faced by postgraduate students in senior residences will also be brought to the attention of this portfolio.

Collaboration with the Dot Net (senior PSO leaders) and SPC/SLS: In organizing the events for Seniors and postgraduate students. General ad hoc issues faced by both seniors and postgraduate students in private accommodation will also be brought to the attention of this portfolio.

Other Committees

Institutional Committees

- Student fees Committee
- Honorary Degrees Committee

Other Committees

Senior Prim Committee and the .Net Community

Sub-committee

None

Budget usage for the First term

No projects were funded in the first term.