STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL
IBHUNGA ELIMELE ABAFUNDI
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SRC 2021/22 TERMREPORT 2
INNOVATION

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Students' Representative Council
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PRECIOUS NHAMO – INNOVATION– PNHAMO@SUN.AC.ZA

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Constitutional Responsibilities

The Innovation portfolio thus far has no constitutionally prescribed responsibilities. However, I am bound by duties allocated to me by the general SRC which are:

Innovation

a) Supporting student entrepreneurship
b) Facilitating innovation in SRC projects
c) Liaising with SU LaunchLab/Innovus
d) Providing student input to SU structures planning entrepreneurship projects

As a duly elected SRC member, my constitutional responsibilities can be split between the duties imposed on me as an SRC member, duties directly assigned to me by the Executive committee, and my portfolio-specific duties. This report will deal with all these capacities I served in. As an SRC Member, sections 21 and 26 impose the prevalent duties. Accordingly, I must always act in the best interest of students and actively promote their constitutionally provided rights. Other specific duties include representing students on institutional committees, evaluating, and giving input on institutional policies, to facilitate projects to the benefit of students. Section 26 further obligates me to submit a termly report of all my activities during the academic term to the Secretary. Finally, according to section 38, I must attend an SRC meeting every week during the academic term.

And I have diligently fulfilled my role in such regards. As per my job requirements, I have attended and completed some of my weekly office duties. I have also attended all my meetings and training except the ones I had academic conflicting schedules. I failed in submitting my report 36-hours after it was due.

Portfolio Overview

The Innovation portfolio of the SRC focuses on actively supporting student entrepreneurship on campus. The portfolio facilitates innovation in SRC projects. It also liaises with SU LaunchLab/ Innovus. It also ensures that student input to SU structures planning entrepreneurship projects is heard.

For 2022 our mission is to work towards achieving sustainable projects and helping students produce at their premium best.

In-depth, the innovation portfolio broadens, promotes, and supports a culture of innovation & entrepreneurship as it drives creative thinking and advances efforts to extra-economic and social value from knowledge. As a proponent of student innovation, it seeks to work with the Launch Lab to promote and facilitate entrepreneurial ideas from students which are aimed at socio-ecological challenges in their respective contexts

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Quality Committee (QC)

The QC was established in 1993 to ensure all departments in this institution are following the appropriate procedure for assessing the quality of their 'services.' This committee does not itself assess the quality but assists the departments to set their criteria and review their internal procedures. The QC aims to assess all departments over a 5-year cycle. Departments include all faculties and administrative departments of the Institution. The QC is chaired by the Vice-rector of Learning and Teaching and the secretary is the senior adviser of the Academic Planning and Quality Assurance division. The SRC holds 2 seats on this committee. During the QC meeting for the first term held on 22 November 2021 at 10:30 -11:30, we welcomed new members and passed farewell to retiring members. The updated and approved mandate was availed to the committee – the following have since then been approved as the mandates of this committee:

a) Makes recommendations to the Executive Committee of the Senate for attention, discussion, and or further action.
b) Has the powers of disposal to accept and approve self-evaluation and peer review reports and accept or refer-back improvement plans and follow-up reports.
c) Provides institutional guidance and advice on quality assurance matters by identifying and sharing examples of good practice.
d) Monitors the implementation of the Policy for Quality Assurance and Enhancement

At this meeting, we didn't table any self-evaluation or peer review reports by departments or professional academic and administrative support service (PASS) environments but rather focused our discussion on adapted themes and criteria for such evaluations, and the progress we are currently making with the institutional audit.

2nd Meeting: 25 March, 09:00 -13:00

On the agenda were peer reviews from some of the departments which were: 1, Microbiology 2, Afrikaans En Nederlands, Drama, and Agricultural Economics.

Key issues were raised by all departments. Which were the diversity profile of staff, diversity of students in post-graduate enrolments, limitations on the retention of institutional memory, and opportunities to correct such with retirements coming up in the relevant departments. Intentionality and headhunting were also tabled to be solutions for the mentioned problems.

Library and Information

Awaiting further review by external experts and feedback channeled on how we can get adequate funding for the 21st-century library.10 principles will be used in moving towards that and in the evaluation process which are 1, governance, infrastructure, broadening access, funding, human resources, collections, collaborations & partnerships, educational role, quality assurance & standards framework.

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Institutional Audit's memorandum was submitted to relevant student bodies for review before it is made public to the student population. As per the date of our meeting, consultations, meetings with students, and re-editing of the second draft are underway.SEC has had 6 meetings to date. The document will be made public for comments and for everyone to provide feedback. The goal of this consultation phase is to write an overarching report and we strongly advise students to engage in the future.

Officer Quality Assurance Contacts:

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Allison Mlitwa -amlitwa@sun.ac.za

Stellenbosch University Co-Curricular Support Fund (SUCSF)/USKOF

USKOF was founded in 2011 after assessments were done and need was seen. Several departments and divisions within the university make funds available to support the co-curricular development of students and these funds are pooled and made available to the committee and utilized for the following reasons:
  a) Students' attendance of and participation in national and international conferences fall outside the formal academic offering.
  b) Support for student initiatives on campus in addition to the day-to-day activities of student structures for which there are existing budgets; and
  c) Support for Students' Representative Council's (SRC) initiatives linked to the above-mentioned, but also initiatives related to national and international co-curricular activities that are preferably not annual or repetitive events.

The application and utilization of the funds by students are assessed by reporting and similar ways of feedback. The SRC has 2 seats on this committee and aid in decision make and final approval of applicants. SUCSF/USKOF is administered by the Division of Student Affairs. Its operations are subject to institutional and covid regulations.

In our first meeting in January 2022 –
We discussed the risks associated with funding students that are not yet fully registered as they are technically not recognized as students yet. However, it was agreed that if a student hasn't or isn't graduating yet they can still be considered as we hope they will continue with their studies. We also deliberated on opening international travel opportunities on the condition that students take responsibility to fully equip themselves with any regulation changes e.g., covid 19, travel restrictions and insurance, and costs of PCR tests and vaccination. SRC was mandated together with team members to promote conferences and events within Africa and online courses. We agreed on not preventing future funding if the student chooses to attend an online event now and in person later

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Next meeting: 23 February 2022 (I was unfortunately able to attend the meeting due to academic obligations)

 Student Achievement Committee

No meetings to date.

Term Overview

N: B This report is a continuation of my term 2 reports to help the reader stay engaged and up to date without h having to navigate between different reports.

Innovation Meetups

I have had meetings with Daniel Maloba to see how SU LaunchLab can work together affordably with the students. We deliberated with each other on our plans for the year and reached conclusions on how best we would work together. I went on to book them a table at the societies' fair. I had a meeting with VR for Innovation to explore and exploit some of the possible avenues of funding student entrepreneurship initiatives. I also applied for partnership and funding with Sanlam & The Shoprite group of companies, and we are still awaiting approval.

Overall, I spent my first term trying to bring all relevant parties together for collective action.

2nd term meetings

Had 3 meetings with Daniel Maloba and some of the key conclusions from the meetings were

1st 2nd, 3rd Meeting:

Coming into the third term conclusions:

- Promoting the EDHE-Entrepreneurship InterVarsity 2022 (www.edhe.co.za)
- Entrepreneurship workshops: Design Thinking & Business Model Canvas
- Inter-communities (residences & PSO) innovation challenge
- Community Events
- Data Science Bootcamp – 2nd trial (the price was reduced from 11000 to 7000) -unsure if it would make much of a difference.

Entrepreneurship Roundtable

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Tuesday 08 March 2022, 18:00 -19:30

We hosted our first entrepreneurship roundtable in the charge of Neelsie (which was a last-minute booking but convenient). We hosted a very young speaker from Stanford University speaking on moving from the idea to iconic. The idea behind was to find someone who is relatable in terms of age and opportunities to empower our student entrepreneurs and show the possibilities of seemingly impossible things. We had amazing feedback from the attendees who showed keen interest in wanting to join the committee. However, the diversity of the attendees on the Stellenbosch campus was still a problem. In attendance, we had 11 Tygerberg Students on Zoom + 8 in-person attendance from Stellenbosch Campus. We still have a long way to go but this is the beginning of something great.

Budget Usage

No funds have been utilized thus far

Project	Amount budgeted	Amount utilized	Amount available
Roundtable	R 8450	R1000	R7450

To keep our attendees excited and engaged – we served good wine, cheese & pizza. The funds were utilized to purchase wine, cheese, pizza, a book (speaker gift), and other menial expenses like toothpicks.

Plans for next term

1. 3 Weekly entrepreneurship roundtables: (26 April,03 May & 10 May)

2. 29 April / 2 May - close entries for SU Entrepreneurship Rumble

3. 5 May - Design thinking workshop (w. Rumble entries + EDHE internal finalists)

4. 12 May - BMC workshop (w. Rumble + EDHE internal finalists)

5. 21 July - Pitch Please (SU- LL community + Rumble + EDHE internal/regional finalists)

6. 28 July - EDHE Internal Pitch Competition?

7. 11 / 16 / 18 August - Rumble final (+ EDHE Regional finalists also pitch)

8. 29 August - 02 September 2022 - EDHE Regional

N: B This is a timeline of events as provided by our partner launch lab and a lot may be subject to change except the round tables.

After I met with Prof Eugene, we agreed to focus on the above-mentioned 2 projects and rather start drafting an a2-5-year plan for this portfolio. Efforts are being made to have as many external and

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affordable partners as possible. We have been liaising with the launch lab until a certain point, as long as some of their prices are as ridiculously high as 11k student participation will remain compromised.

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