



STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL
IBHUNGA ELIMELE ABAFUNDI
STUDENTERAAD



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SRC 2021/22 TERM REPORT 2 SPECIAL NEEDS

saam vorentoe · masiye phambili · forward together

Students' Representative Council
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Constitutional Responsibilities

The Special Needs Manager has the following constitutional commitments:

- Compile the yearly portfolio budget.
- Attend at least one SRC meeting per term

Portfolio Overview

The portfolio has outlined the following goals in its year plan:

- Ensuring students are provided a platform to engage in self-advocacy
- Facilitating communication and providing input so that students with disabilities are at the center of decisions that affect them
- Full participation in campus life and academic activities are granted to every disabled student
- Ensuring all aspects of the disabled student are considered when decisions are made
- Promote inclusivity in language, structures, and facilities

Committees/Task Teams

Institutional Transformation committee

I have been asked to serve on this committee on the 30th of October. As of yet, I have read and received the guidelines for serving on the committee and I am awaiting further information regarding meetings.

Special Needs Subcommittee

Applications for the sub-committee were released on the 7th of December and closed on the 21st of December. Candidates were shortlisted and asked questions to determine their aptitude for the portfolio. I selected 5 members – a treasurer (assisting in budgets), a secretary (creating meeting minutes/agendas, attending certain meetings with me, and assisting in the general organization), a social media manager (posts to our various social media accounts), a Tygerberg rep (helps assist with concerns specifically related to Tygerberg campus) and a policy officer (assists in drafting documents).

Term Overview

The term focussed mainly on assistance for students with disabilities with the start of the new year and setting up structures for the year with the disability unit.

Autism awareness month stories

A collaboration with transformation. Stories were written by autistic students about their experiences at Stellenbosch and their diagnosis. The stories will be formatted and published on social media during the month of April.



[Otter.ai](#)

Otter.ai is a text to voice transcription service. After a meeting with the Disability unit (DU) to put forward the need we see for a campus license, the DU discussed obtaining a campus license internally and contacted the developers. The DU has invited me to sit join the discussions with the developers.

[Dismaties council](#)

A restructuring of the old Dismaties society has been suggested due to the lack of executive members interested while a large part of the disabled student population still desires a platform to engage with other disabled students. Meetings have been held with the policy officer and the DU separately to discuss the formation of such a committee. The next stage will be the formation of a constitution and framework.

[Neurodivergent society](#)

Meetings have started to discuss the formation of a neurodivergent society. The formation will continue in the coming term.

[Support groups](#)

The DU has invited me to come on as a student facilitator for the support group they plan on starting up in the 2nd semester. We have attended training and discussions on how this will be implemented and what the role of student facilitators will be.

[Name change](#)

Discussions have been held with the DU on what name changes would be best and a questionnaire has been sent with the SRC mass mailer to gauge student concerns on this.

[Budget Usage](#)

No budget has been utilized this term

[Plans for next term](#)

The plans for the upcoming term as outlined by the subcommittee are as follows:

- Service dog shows and workshop
- Safe spaces
- Changing the name of the portfolio (continuation)
- Creating a guide on inclusive communication

[Recommendations](#)

Students enjoy engaging with the structures to do with their disabilities. Unfortunately accessing a good overview of said structures is hard and students are left without an idea of what to do. Services are split between different structures. Creating a way to summarise all services for disabled students should be considered, so as not to leave students with no support.



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Students require a platform to engage with other students and this should be the primary objective of this portfolio. The initiatives that ensure such structures that outlast my term should be prioritized.

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