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SRC

Students' Representative Council
Ibhunga elimele abafundi
Studenteraad



SRC TERM 2 REPORT

SRC VICE-CHAIRPERSON



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Foreword



Hello fellow Maties,

I trust you are well, and that you are still flourishing.

The past term had the SRC quite busy with issues of registration, which is still an ongoing process, trying to get as much students, and mostly returning students back into the system.

We faced many challenges during this term, and most of the colleagues on the SRC experienced serious trauma and burnout due to the different challenges we had to deal with. I think we have really tried our best to show-up regardless, and serve you to the best of our abilities.

One of the most important lessons I have learned during this term, and which I would like to share with you is that sometimes we want to help everyone, but later in your life, and especially in a leadership journey, you would realise that actually that is not possible. I have honestly hoped that we could for example help every student with accommodation and or registration this year, but I could not. Not because I am useless, but just because resources do not always allow for everyone to be helped.

This is a lesson I will carry with me throughout my leadership journey, and even after the SRC, and my hope is that one day we will all learn that yes, there are things you would want to change but it will take a long time before one gets there. At that goes for transformation as well, as much as one would want change now, it is important to note that it will take some time, but eventually we will get there where we ought to be.

Constitutional Responsibilities

According to the student constitution my constitutional responsibilities are the following:

- 1) Responsible for supporting the Chairperson in all administrative roles and fulfilling any or all of the duties of the Chairperson should the Chairperson be incapacitated or unavailable.
- 2) Responsible for the internal monitoring and evaluation of the SRC.
- 3) Responsible for the internal monitoring of internal relations and discipline of the SRC.
- 4) Appoints the SRC Managers, with the consent of the SRC.

My responsibilities are however not limited to what is outlined in our student constitution. As an SRC Member I'm binding to all other additional duties such as what is outlined in sections 27 and 32, and that is to always:

- act in the best interests of all Stellenbosch University Students firmly
- uphold the Student Constitution and to protect the rights and freedoms of all Stellenbosch University Students,
- and to act transparent in everything I do on behalf of the SRC.
- represent students on various institutional committees.
- evaluate and give input on institutional policies.
- to plan and facilitate projects that will advance a transformative student experience for all.
- to formulate internal policies to help support and guide the SRC to execute their functionaries to the best possible standards.

As a member of the Executive Committee of the SRC I also have other constitutional duties imposed on me as per sections 41 and 42 of the Student Constitution. The Executive Committee of the SRC runs the day-to-day business of the house and is ultimately responsible for setting the agenda for SRC Meetings. This committee also decides on the budget of the SRC and must ensure that the SRC executes its functionaries accordingly.

Finally, the Vice-Chairperson's (VC) main responsibility is to ensure that the house is in order. The VC takes care of all the Internal Matters of the SRC such as monitoring and evaluating the performance of SRC Members and SRC Managers. The VC is also in charge of Internal Discipline.

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Portfolio Overview

The Vice-chairperson shares the role of overseeing the SRC with the Chairperson. Key responsibilities of this portfolio include:

- Maintaining the internal relations in the team
- Overseeing and enforcing discipline in the team
- Coordinating the SRC's representation on institutional committees
- Ensuring there are teambuilding
- Promoting leadership development within the team
- Monitoring and evaluating the team's performance
- Appoint Managers

Committees/Task Teams

I serve on the following Committees and or Task Teams:

1) Senate Library Committee

The first meeting of this Committee is scheduled for Wednesday 26 April 2023, note that the role of this Committee is to;

advise the Senate on the academic activities of the Library and Information Service, about strategy and policy regarding the provision of library and information material, as well as the appropriate infrastructure for access to and use of the information material, to staff members and students.

Further note that in the first upcoming meeting I will raise the issue around Library Access Hours due to a high number of complaints from students regarding lack of study hours, short library hours.

2) Naming Committee

The first meeting of this Committee is scheduled for Friday 21 April 2023, note that the role of this Committee is to;

review the names of Stellenbosch Universities buildings, residences, and other facilities to ensure that these names are in line with the Institutions Vision and Mission (specifically in terms of its commitment transformation). Furthermore, the Committee is also in charge of facilitating/heading the process of any name changes to buildings, residences, and other facilities.

3) NSFAS Cap Contingency Committee (New Committee)

This is a new Committee established on an urgent basis by the Rectorate in February 2023. The role and purpose of this Committee is to urgently look at the National Student Financial Aid

Scheme (NSFAS) CAP on Residence allowances of R45 000,00 introduced in the beginning of 2023.

So far, the Committee has assisted all the students who applied to the institution for a top-up allowance to help cover the gap in the accommodation allowance. Most of the work of this Committee can be read in my previous report, as the work of this term just concluded the processes. The Committee is having a close-out meeting on the 18th May 2023.

4) Supporting the Student Debt Working Group Committee

I sit on this Committee as a supporting Member from the SRC, to help being a voice for students who face financial exclusion. Most of the Committee work has been covered in the previous reports of both me and other colleagues. I can however report that we had a great success in terms of more funding: Earlier this year I went to Johannesburg in Sandton where the Motsepe Foundation donated eight hundred thousand rand to the SRC, whereby the SRC decided to use this money to help cover the debt of students. The SRC further from its own reserved funds, donated one hundred and fifty thousand rands to help with student debt. In the past SRC would donate about two hundred and fifty thousand rands, but this year due to budget constraints we could only give the amount above. The Centre for Bursaries and Loans is currently finalising the Student Debt Working Group Report, but I am happy to report that we were able to assist over two hundred students this year.

Term I Overview

During my first term in office, I executed the following:

Co-Curricular Renewal Application

Most of this term I had to spend on trainings and meetings on the renewal process and application for the SRC to get recognition on our transcripts. These engagements took quite a chunk of my time year, but I am happy that I could be part of a process to make sure the SRC gets the necessary recognition for their work. The application for the renewal was submitted by my Office and also the Office of the Student Leadership Portfolio Holder, and we now await the outcome of the said application.

SRC Managers

The Vice-Chairperson also carries the role of appointing SRC Managers as outlined in the Student Constitution. Together with the Innovation Portfolio Holder, and the Safety and Security Manager, we facilitated and concluded yet another appointment process to appoint a Sport Manager. Note that the portfolio was dropped by Dylan Schmidt, due to workload, Schmidt carries now only the International Portfolio and Additional Member of the SRC Executive.

Cycling for Student Hunger

The SRC has this year noted with concern the increase of food insecurity on our Campus and with that I decided to be part of the solution by joining the Rector and Vice-Chancellor Prof Wim de Villiers in die Cape Town cycling tour with the hope and aim to raise money for students who are struggling with financial aid and student hunger. Together with other Maties we raised over one hundred thousand rands, which I think was something great to participate in, and I hope that SRCs in future would take on the very same challenge for our student body.

Outreach to Rosendaal High School

My Office received an invitation by a school in Delft in Cape Town to come and facilitate a leadership workshop with their Prefects and Representative Council of Learners (RCL), and to share with them

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our learning journey in leadership. Now although our primary focus and responsibility is Stellenbosch University Students, we do still carry a responsibility of plugging back into our communities. Thus, the invite was accepted also on the basis to get those learners to dream bigger and one day also come and study at SU. Secondly it was accepted on the basis that this opportunity helps with our own development as leaders. We had three colleagues of the SRC representing our structure and the University at the School, and we were able to share some valuable input to help those young leaders grow even further.

SRC Boardroom

Throughout this term Stellenbosch University IT Department and Maintenance has been busy with access control to the SRC Boardroom, which is still affecting a smoother and more secure way of booking out the space. I had to most of the time just facilitate the process by making sure they have access to the space to complete their work. Do however note that this is still an ongoing process. Further note that the booking of the SRC Boardroom is temporarily done through Simonet at simonet@sun.ac.za.

Monitoring and Evaluation of SRC Portfolios

During this term I had one-on-one engagements with SRC Representatives to track their progress on the SRC, but also most importantly their mental health and progress on academics. I did note that quite a few members experienced burnouts throughout the term due to registration and academics at the same time. I think at this stage I want to note that being in the arena is quite tough, and most of the times we get kicked, kicked by leadership, kicked by our many responsibilities, and kicked by our academics indeed. However, that did not stop us from going the extra mile and showing up for our students.

I have noted that many members could not host events during this term due to the chaos of registration which kept us all quite busy, and thus the hope and aim is to make sure and support members with events in the next term.

I have further noted the struggle of reporting work via term reports and are currently in discussion with experts on how we could best support the SRC when it comes to the reporting of their work.

At the same time, I have identified a need to build cohesion in the team, due to some lack of communication between colleagues here and there, I have thus contacted colleagues at the Friedrich and Naumann Foundation for Freedom to help and support us, by facilitating a reflection workshop on where we come from, where we are at, and where it is that we are going. This workshop will take place in the new term.

Moral Boosters

The SRC went on one dinner during this term as a type of moral booster just after the registration and welcoming period. Note that the money for this dinner, just as the previous dinners thus far comes from the general cost point of the SRC, and not my budget. As we drew close to the term, my Office did however host a term closure where the SRC went for a breakfast on the last day of the term. Budgetary of these two events are disclosed under budget usage.

Motsepe Foundation Donation

On the 16th of February 2023 I attended an event in Johannesburg where the Motsepe Foundation donated eight hundred thousand rands to the SRC. At this particular event I relayed how important collaboration between institutions and the private sector is to help our student get access to university spaces and eventually graduate at the end. I also spoke at length on our challenges when it comes to the regards of student debt, and for this reason the SRC decided to utilise the money for student debt. Note that the Centre for Bursaries and Loans is still finalising the report on how the money was spent.

Electoral Commissioners Appointment

I have accordingly tasked Simonet Kapp and Rudi Classen, both members of the SRC to assist the SRC Executive with the process of appointing Electoral Commissioners, this process will be concluded within the first two weeks of the new term.

Budget Usage

Project	Budgeted	Utilized	Available
Teambreakfast (Moral Booster)	R12 000,00	R1 500,00	R10 500,00
SRC Dinner (From General SRC Cost Centre)	N/A	R3 420,00	N/A
Office Supplies (From General SRC Cost Centre)	N/A	R 895,86	N/A
Flights to JHB and CPT – receive Motsepe Foundation. (From General SRC Cost Centre)	N/A	R5 530,00	N/A

Total budget: R35 000,00

Budget Spent: R1 500,00

Available budget: R33 500,0

Plans for Next Term

I plan on doing the following:

Internal:

- Host a workshop on SRC Term Reporting.
- Host a workshop on SRC Reflection and Bonding – Building the way forward.
- Host a bonding session for the SRC – playing games.
- Arrange more active exercises for the SRC, in collaboration with Maties Gym for positive mental and physical fitness.
- Continue maintaining strict discipline internally via written and verbal communication platforms.
- Monitoring the performances of SRC Representatives accordingly.

Student Issues:

- Fight for extended library hours as I sit on the Senate Library Committee.
- Object the NSFAS Direct Payment System both via Media input and Committee spaces where NSFAS is present or NSFAS is a discussion point.
- Implore the University to relook at their shuttle services as it is quite limited.