



STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL
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SRC 2021/22 TERMREPORT 3 PRIM COMMITTEE VICE- CHAIRPERSON

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Students' Representative Council
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CHRISTO VAN DER BANK – VICE-CHAIRPERSON PRIM COMMITTEE – THUNDERBANK@SUN.AC.ZA

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Constitutional Responsibilities

Chapter 9 of the Student Constitution (“SC”) deals with the Prim Committee (“PC”) and sets out the various powers and duties of the Prim Committee.

Section 98 of the SC explains the composition of the PC. It is important to take note of section 98(1)(a) which holds that “the PC consists of the chairperson and the executive committee of the PC with rights as granted to them by the PC Constitution”. Section 99 of the SC deals with the duties and powers and holds that the PC represents the interests of all residents of residences and members of PSOs at the SRC and University management and further states that decisions taken by the PC are binding on all House Committees. Section 100 sets out the PC’s constitutional mandate and holds that the PC must actively promote the rights of students as contained in Chapter 2 of the SC and makes specific reference to section 8(1) of the SC. Section 101 of the SC deals with the different communities’ constitutions, rules and regulations. This section holds that the PC Constitution is binding on all communities’ constitutions which form part of the PC. Section 101(5) of the SC gives the PC the power to “establish a committee for the purpose of approving any constitutions, rules, or regulations, or amendments, thereto by House Committees”.

The PC is mainly governed by the PC Constitution.



Portfolio Overview

The Prim Committee is an *ex-officio* structure to the SRC. The Vice-Chairperson's basic duties are outlined in the PC Constitution, and I am encompassed with ensuring that all student communities operate to their full potential. As per the PC Constitution, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the PC must be the main representative of either PSOs or residences. For the 2021/2022 term, the Vice-Chairperson is the main representative of residences.

The PC serves as a platform for any student in a community space to take their query to the House Committee, the House Committee takes it to the Prim who then reports it to the PC meeting. The PC executive then either deal with the query or refer it to a higher structure. The Vice-Chairperson's duty is to ensure that all queries in the residence spaces are heard and then resolved as expeditiously as possible. If the matter can't be resolved on PC level, the matter will be referred to either the SRC or CSC.



Committees/Task Teams

Institutional Advisory Committee for Internationalisation

Explanation of Committee can be found in my term 1 and 2 reports. No meeting has taken place since my second report. No date has been confirmed for the next meeting.

RegisterAll task team

Work completed

Welcoming Committee

Work completed.

Maties T-Shirt Committee

Work completed.

Monitors Advisory Committee (MAC)

Work completed.

Student Communities Advisory Committee

Explanation of Committee can be found in my term 1 and 2 reports. No meeting has taken place since my second report. The next meeting is scheduled for the 1st of August.

Advisory Committee on Review of Residence Rules

The first draft of the reviewed residence rules is completed. Final amendments will be made before the document is sent to the rectorate for approval. One issue which I brought up is the fact that the document was still not gender neutral, this will be amended in the final document.



Term Overview

The majority of the second term functioned as usual with bi-weekly Prim Committee meetings.

A few delegates of the SRC were invited to the Military Campus in Saldanha to attend their variety show, we spent some time with their student council to strengthen ties with the Military Campus.

The Chairperson of the Prim Committee, Toni Solomon, took leave from the 7th of May after which I took over as acting Chairperson. On the 15th of May the Chairperson of the SRC, Viwe Kobokana, contacted me to inform me of the incident which took place in Huis Marais. I immediately contacted the Primarius of Huis Marais to gather more information of the incident. I advised him to immediately inform the Residence Head. I joined a Huis Marais House Committee meeting as well as an emergency House Meeting on Sunday. On Monday the story appeared in the media whereafter the perpetrator was removed from Huis Marais with immediate effect. I assisted the Huis Marais House Committee as best I could during those few days. During that week, the SRC worked tirelessly by engaging with various stakeholders as tensions on campus increased. Issues of systemic racism and discrimination came to the forefront and the SRC immediately started engaging with various stakeholders to address these issues. I had multiple meetings with the rectorate to decide on the plan of action moving forward.

On the 18th of May Gareth Cornelissen informed me of an alleged sexual assault which took place in one of the male communities. I immediately contacted the Primarius to gather more information and had a meeting with the Residence Head as well as the House Committee on the same day. I also contacted the Primarius of the affected female community to offer my assistance and had a meeting with the Residence Head and House Committee the following day. Counselling was offered to all affected parties during these meetings.

On Thursday the 19th of May, an historic meeting took place between all relevant student leaders and student organisations of Stellenbosch University. At this historic meeting, it was decided that a mass student mobilisation would take place on Friday the 20th of May where all students would stand together and say that “enough is enough” to all the systemic issues at Stellenbosch University.

The SRC has compiled a working document with input from all student leaders which will be submitted to the rectorate.



Budget Usage

<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount budgeted</u>	<u>Amount utilised</u>	<u>Amount available</u>
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

The PC budget falls under CSC.



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Plans for next term

I will continue to work with the SRC to see meaningful, structural change within student communities to combat systemic issues at Stellenbosch University.

I am still acting Chairperson and will continue in the position for an indefinite amount of time.

The third term is election season, and I will assist the student communities with their elections as far as possible. The Prim Committee election for Chair and Vice-Chair is taking place on the 2nd of August.

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