



STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL
IBHUNGA ELIMELE ABAFUNDI
STUDENTERAAD



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SRC 2021/22 TERM REPORT 3 SPECIAL NEEDS

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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. The next meeting will occur on the 29th of July 2022.

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 various services required during the year and focusing on creating structures to assist students.

Disability stories

Stories were collected and compiled. Many of them are still to be released. They include stories by external people with disabilities as well as students at the university. The aim is to release one per week in the last term.



[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. As of yet no further contact has occurred.

[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. A constitution has been drawn up and members for an executive committee have been recruited.

[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. The first in person meeting will occur in the 4th term.

[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. The questionnaire showed interest on changing the name to something centring disabilities. The name "Disability Resources" was the most favourable.

[Safe spaces](#)

A safe space was held on the 13th of May in the SRC boardroom. The space was well attended and the response was favourable. The suggestion was made to repeat the space in the next term. Considering no budget had to be utilized, a transport service can be arranged from Tygerberg.

[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:

- Exam skills workshop
- Safe spaces
- Creating a guide on inclusive communication
- Transportation initiative suggestion



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Recommendations

A major issue faced this term was the lack of transport services for students with disabilities, especially to access hospital services. The suggestion has been to divert care to Tygerberg and/or Stellenbosch hospital to make transport more central and either budget for such a initiative in the next year for the portfolio or to collaborate with campus health and/or the disability unit on such an initiative.

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