



STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL
IBHUNGA ELIMELE ABAFUNDI
STUDENTERAAD



UNIVERSITEIT
iYUNIVESITHI
STELLENBOSCH
UNIVERSITY

100
1918 · 2018



STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL
IBHUNGA ELIMELE ABAFUNDI
STUDENTERAAD



UNIVERSITEIT
iYUNIVESITHI
STELLENBOSCH
UNIVERSITY

100
1918 · 2018

SRC 2021/22 TERM REPORT 3: WOMXN AND QUEER EMPOWERMENT “WAQE”

saam vorentoe · masiye phambili · forward together

Students' Representative Council
Third Floor, Neelsie Student Centre
Private Bag X1, Matieland, 7602



ALEX VINK – WOMXN AND QUEER EMPOWERMENT (“WAQE”)– 21964769@SUN.AC.ZA

Table of Contents

Constitutional Responsibilities	2
Portfolio Overview	3
Committees/Task Teams	4
Term Overview	5
Budget Usage	7
Plans for next term	8



Constitutional Responsibilities

Womxn and Queer empowerment does not have specified constitutional responsibilities, outside of those stated in the SU Student Constitution for the SRC in its entirety. Chapter 2 s4(2) makes it clear that all student structures, as mentioned in s3 of the SU Student Constitution, must take steps to ensure the protection and promotion of all rights contained in Chapter 2 and the Constitution in its entirety. These ranging from equality (s5), human dignity(s6), confidentiality of student records(s7), Freedom of religion belief and opinion (s9), freedom of expression (s10). These rights all directly link to the vision, mission and mandate of the Womxn and Queer empowerment portfolio.

My duties as a Manager is clearly set out in Chapter 4 S36 of the SU Student Constitution. S36(1) highlighting that managers are in charge of portfolios mainly consisting of an organisational and administrative function. S36(4) stating that managers are accountable to a specific SRC member and the whole SRC.



Portfolio Overview

The *Womxn and Queer Empowerment* (“WAQE”) portfolios main aim is to actively diminish institutional patriarchy, end rape culture, queer phobia, and gender-based violence. To initiate and develop projects to: encourage the upliftment of womxn, empower queer persons and provide safe and equitable spaces for womxn and queer communities.

The WAQE portfolio intending to do so through encouragement, education, support, transparency, and accountability. This will be achieved by transformative engagement with students, student-leaders, staff, and the broader community of Stellenbosch. We will be creating safe-spaces to tackle the issues of GBV, femicide and queer-phobia plaguing our society. Networking session will be implemented to encourage the idea of ‘community’, empowering leadership development and engagement between womxn and queer bodies of all parts of the SU communities. The foundation of the portfolio then being the promotion human dignity and respect for all. WAQE aims to create a community at SU, whereby all womxn and queer bodies feel safe, protected, heard, and included.



Committees/Task Teams

SRC Committee(s):

- WAQE Team

Purpose: To assist the WAQE manager with the running of the portfolio.

Significant matters: The WAQAE Team accomplished a lot in the past term, many of our term targets were met.

- WAQE Forum

Purpose: To provide support, foster engagement, and assist all WAQE leader of the various communities. The forum is in place to allow for the formation of meaningful collaborations between the various communities and structures, to help further WAQES mission on campus.

Institutional Committee(s):

- Residence Rules Review: Advisory Committee

Purpose: The Residence Rules Review Advisory Committee is put into place to assess all the rules currently in place. To assess its equability, fairness and if rules should be changed in anyway. The committee meets bi-weekly, where each meeting tackles a different residence rule which is to be reviewed.

Significant matters: The committee had met with various leaders in various communities and did research into the various residence rules and whether they are still needed .

- SU GBV Monitoring Committee

Purpose: The Anti-GBV Monitoring Committee purpose will be to meet with the Chairpersons of Committees from all environments in the University every quarter. Whereby we will work together to report findings, discuss issues faced across the institution, share ideas/information. As a way of monitoring progress on the issue of GBV at in institution.

Significant matters: The committee had their first meeting, and discussed the mandate and the need for the committee.

- Student Institutional Transformation Committee (SITC)

Purpose: To assess and scrutinise the transformative practises and procedures of the University, in order to report to the Institutional Transformation Committee.

Significant matters: The executive committee was decided on, as well as the pursose and mandate of the committee.

saam vorentoe · masiye phambili · forward together



Term Overview

Pride

WAQE, together with the Transformation, decided that the 2022 SRC Pride would be divided into a series of events. The events were to be spread out before the June examination, and thereafter once the new semester commenced.

The first event that was hosted for the SRC Pride, was the Pride Culture evening. The culture evening was done in collaboration with KUKO. The event was hosted at Minerva, and it saw various queer artists on campus performing. The performances ranged from sing, poetry, short story's and spoken word. The main aim of the event was to highlight queer artists on campus, and to give them a platform to showcase their various talents. The other aim of the event was to educate those in attendance on the importance and significance of queer bodies in the arts, and how massive queer contribution have been.

WAQE also created and disturbed a study and study break playlist, so that students could still celebrate pride during their examination season. The playlist was made available on Spotify and Apple Music, and was distributed on all WAQEs social media platforms.

Equality Unit

WAQE worked together with the Equality unit to shoot a pride video. WAQEs contribution to the video was specifically relating to the concept of 'allyship', and how allies could better support their queer counterparts on campus.

WAQE also worked with the Equality Unit to create information sheets on gender-based violence ("GBV"). The sheets feature a series of topics related to GBV. The topics serve to better explain, and elaborate on the complexities of GBV and how it manifests. The creation of the sheet came after many communities urged the need for more digestible informational packs to be distributed to their respective house members.

GBV

WAQE dealt with numerous GBV incidents throughout the term. However many students decided on not reported the incidents to the Equality Unit.

The University also saw a large scale GBV incident which took place in one of the male residences on campus. The male residence contacted the SRC, whereby WAQE spearheaded the interventions. WAQE, along with Safety & Security, Student Wellness and the Prim Committee Vice-chairperson went to both the male residence (where the incident took place), as well as the female residence where the survivor resides. Both residences were offered support by the SRC, this ranged from counselling sessions, GBV awareness talks and pamphlets, as well as us as the SRC joining and assisting them when meeting with the Equality Units Legal advisory team. The investigation is still ongoing, and support is still being given by WAQE to the affected residence spaces.



Other Cases

A case of Hate-speech was reported to the SRC. WAQE then oversaw the process, as it was hate-speech directed at the queer community. WAQE investigated the incident by meeting with the complainant, and examining the evidence. WAQE then reported the incident to the Equality Unit, as well as Student Parliament. The case is still ongoing, and support is still being provided by WAQE to the complainant.

WAQE also received numerous complaints of queerphobic behaviour in and around restaurants and bars in Stellenbosch, towards queer students. However our jurisdiction was limited in all instances. WAQE did however offer counselling and support structure to the affected students

'STAY WAQE'

Two episodes were recorded for WAQEs podcast. The episodes titled “rough, raw, real...SEX” and “my power, my poise, my passion... MY PRIDE”. Unfortunately due to the changes in SRC Pride, it was decided that our pride episode would only launch in the next semester.

However, our sex episode (“rough, raw, real...SEX”), launched during May. The episode touched on safe sex, stigmas around sex, contraceptive measure and slut shaming. The sex episode is “STAY WAQES” top episode, since its official launch in March.

WAQE Team

The WAQE team had their official team building event. The event took the form of a dinner, at Casa Cerveza. All members were in attendance and it served its aim of helping to unite the team, and to lay out our vision and mission for the team

Huis Marais

During the protests that happened after the incident that transpired at Huis Marais, whereby a students belongings were urinated on by another student. The SRC had a series of talks and a mass mobilisation. At both the talk and the mobilisation I formed part of the logistics team. We worked to coordinate the events. This ranged for organising and setting up the equipment, to calling participants and coordinating safety procedures and plans.



Budget Usage

<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount budgeted</u>	<u>Amount utilised</u>	<u>Amount available</u>
Podcast	R1200	R0	R1200
Critical engagements	R3800	R1048	R2752
Networking Sessions	R5200	R0	R5200
Pride Week	R4800	R0	R4800
Womxn's week	R3300	R0	R3300
Committee costs	R3200	R1181.40	R2018,60
GBV Costs	R5200	R0	R5200

Budget and Reasonings:

- We team had our team-building dinner at Casa Cerveza.



STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL
IBHUNGA ELIMELE ABAFUNDI
STUDENTERAAD



UNIVERSITEIT
iYUNIVESITHI
STELLENBOSCH
UNIVERSITY



Plans for next term

1. Host the Pride Picnic, Pride Mixer and Pride March
2. Host Womxns Week
3. Conclude the GBV fund discussions with the Alumni Office
4. Host our final , “Stay WAQE”, podcast episodes

saam vorentoe · masiye phambili · forward together

Students' Representative Council
Third Floor, Neelsie Student Centre
Private Bag XI, Matieland, 7602
Tel: +27 21 808 2757 | Email: sr@sun.ac.za