



SRC 2020/2021 Term I Report

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Constitutional Responsibilities

According to the Stellenbosch University Student Constitution, 2018, a manager is responsible for:

- Running portfolios that entail mainly organizational or administrative functions.

Portfolio Overview

The role of the SU International manager is to organize and administrate functions concerning the international students registered at Stellenbosch University.

The primary objective is to unite international students as a whole.

Therefore, narrowing down the divide between Euro-American and African students. With both international groups placed under the same administration (International Office), there still does not seem to be a coherent unity between the two subgroups, at least on the campuses.

SU Internationalisation portfolio works towards ultimately and holistically representing international students who often feel neglected on the campuses as well as the institution as a whole. In addition to this, relevant/efficient representation of these students, proves to be of immense help when they are found in times of crisis.

Committees / Task Teams

- African Student Board
- Institutional Advisory Committee on Internationalization
- KUKO Executive Committee

Term Overview





Plans for next term

As swiftly as the term has gone, the true essence of why I had applied to be the Internationalisation manager has not yet been truly activated due to the status of the globe in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, due to the academic year only starting in mid-March, this has resulted in me having to move the events I had planned to do in term 1 to term 2. Never forgetting and keeping in mind adjustments in relation to the aforementioned plans whilst adhering to COVID-19 friendly adjustments, as the events were presumptive in that they were meant to be in person integrative events which I hoped would achieve and bridge outcomes drawn up in my Year Plan.

While this report is meant to cover the experiences of one term, due to unexpected conditions, I do not feel I have anything truly substantial to report. Besides the several meetings I have attended within the IACI on how we will ultimately tackle this unprecedented new way of higher education and how that will affect the international students who are either still in their respective home countries or have made south Africa a home, this has presented as a challenge for not just myself but for the students that may experience particular challenges, whether it being finances, documentation, travel bans etc.

One of the projects set out for term 1 was to officially re-establish the African Student Board for 2020/2021. The board acts as a platform to represent African International students in higher education throughout most of the country's university institutions. The ASB assists with any and all challenges that our African Students may be confronted with. Previously the ASB was dedicated to creating opportunities where African students could meet up and foster relationships. This objective will still exist under the new ASB management which I am a part of.

The ASB will be headed up by all African Student Societies chairperson`s, therefore allowing for better representation on the board and facilitating relevant and efficient confrontation of common challenges experienced by the community, whilst maintaining a direct, hands on approach.

Along with the International Office Coordinator for student success, Angelo Jephtha, a subsequent meeting has been scheduled to happen within the 2nd term with the respective African Student Leaders to collectively partner up as the SRC and ASB which will prove to cultivate a ripe channel for transparent effective communication.

Meetings with the IACI have not necessarily shown direct 'fruits of the labour' and are not necessarily expected to manifest in such a short term. However, the objective remains the same, prioritising inclusion of international in solution procurement during the highly restrictive COVID-19 period.

On issues concerning matters of visa expiration and issuing of permits for international students residing in South Africa, these solutions are still in process, and I have and will continue to represent our students' best interest- both on campus and abroad as best as I can within my scope.

Recommendations to improve portfolio.

Maintaining a healthy working relationship with the international office and aligning one's year plans with their foundational prospects of international students' success. Moreover, clearly differentiating when stepping/crossing over one's scope and being able to reel it back would be of great assistance. As some, if not most events, are quite similar with those that are organized by the International office.





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Important Contacts

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