



SRC 2020/2021 | Term I Report

Viwe Kobokana, Transformation, viwek@sun.ac.za

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Constitutional Responsibilities

Transformation does not have specific constitutional responsibilities outside of those stated in the SU Student Constitution for the SRC in its entirety. Chapter 3 (1) to act in the best interest of students and to actively promote students' rights under (11); (2) to represent students at – (a) the University Council; (b) the Senate; (c) the Institutional Forum; (d) other committees, bodies and functionaries of the University; and (e) national and international student bodies; (3) to evaluate the University policy and give input in the formulation thereof; (4) to consider the advice of Student Parliament; (5) facilitate projects and initiatives to the benefit of students; (6) to facilitate projects and initiatives to the benefit of students; and (7) to formulate and maintain policy in order to ensure that the Student Representative Council performs its functions and duties effectively.

Portfolio Overview

SRC Transformation's role is to create a diverse student experience that will best promote human dignity and justice. A welcoming campus that values the rights of everyone and appreciates the differences that exist amongst human beings is the greatest success of transformation. The portfolio offers the institution and the student body a greater understanding of justice. It is through it that discrimination is intolerable within the academic spaces. The portfolio advocates for equity for everyone. It offers persons an opportunity to be treated as human beings without fear.

The Transformation Officer has a duty to represent all students on campus. It strives towards providing a student experience that is welcoming to everyone without discriminating. We are shaped by the environments that we originate from as students. It is therefore the responsibility of the Transformation Officer to bridge the gap by providing a global experience that will not violate the rights of others based on their language, gender, religion, social class, and political affiliation. The goal is to create an environment that will offer students an opportunity to learn from one and another through embracing multiculturalism. Human dignity and justice guide the transformation agenda.





Committees / Task Teams

1. Transformation and Critical Engagement Forum – Head
2. Student Institutional Transformation Committee – Chairperson
3. Institutional Transformation Committee
4. Institutional Forum
5. Division of Student Affairs Transformation Forum
6. Institutional Advisory Committee on Internationalisation
7. RegisterAll task team – Main campus and Tygerberg campus

Term Overview

The first term was a rather busy one for the Transformation portfolio. I decided that a lot of the groundwork for 2021 needed to be completed by the end of 2020 so that by the beginning of the year, all there is left to do is tie up loose ends. I first reached out to Babalwa Gusha from the Transformation Office, who gave me a breakdown of what student-led transformation had looked like in the past few years. This helped orientate me and point me in the direction of what needed to be done in my term on the SRC. She further assisted me by looping me into the staff members who would be able to further the transformation agenda on an institutional level.

Once I had all this information, I met with a long-time student leader and senior student, Mokgeseng Ramaisa, who briefed me on transformation from a student perspective – what was attempted, what failed, and what succeeded but failed in terms of longevity. This information helped me a lot as I did not want to start from scratch with my work, I wanted to build on what my predecessors had done but find a way to use resources and people who would ensure that this work lasts longer than my term.

1. My first job was assisting Babalwa and the outgoing SITC with the annual Student Transformation Indaba. The event was online, and the theme was “A Case for Embedding the Student ITC at SU”.
2. While assisting with the Student Indaba, I put out a call to all House Committee and Faculty Committee leaders whose portfolios are related to transformation and critical engagement to join the TCE (Transformation and Critical Engagement) Forum. I created this forum as a method of streamlining transformation in different university communities. There are 42 members in the forum from residences, and faculties from main and Tygerberg campuses.
3. I then also designed the Critical Engagement Forum Capacity Programme (CEFCP) for the members of the forum and reached out to Babalwa from Transformation Office, Yeki Mosomothane from the Division of Student Affairs, and Spurgeon Wilson from the FVZS Institute. The programme equips the TCE Forum members with facilitation skills to hold conversations and collective sense-making, on sometimes uncomfortable yet important subjects that are inevitable in transforming spaces. Babalwa and Yeki’s roles are to ensure that this programme is institutionalised so that after my term in office, TO and DSAf merely reach out to my successor and brief them on how to put the Forum members together, and what is needed from their side as the SRC Transformation Officer, however the content and funding are covered by their offices. Spurgeon’s role is to assist with content and training of the facilitation part of the programme, editing FVZS’s Facilitative Leadership Course to suit the needs and timeline of the CEFCP.





4. My first event for the term was a critical engagement in collaboration with UCT's Open Mind Society. We had an online discussion on Afrophobia, this was on the 29th of October 2020. The event took place on an online platform provided by OMS, and despite attendance all in all being around 20 people, it was a very fruitful and exhilarating discussion.
5. I was invited to write an opinion piece on behalf of the TSR and SRC for the DSAf Transformation Forum Newsletter, addressing what we as leaders consider a transformative student experience and what our expectation, if any, is from DSAf and the institution in engaging in creating this experience. I reached out to Kristin Arends, the TSR Chair, and asked her if she would like to ask the TSR's Social Justice Manager, Realeboga Mothupi, to send me a piece and I would then combine the two so that the TSR and SRC speak in one voice. I did this because one of our goals was to bridge the gap between the campuses.
6. After the decisions taken by Rectorate and CSC regarding Huis Marais, I decided that intervention by SRC Transformation and Women and Queer Empowerment (WAQE) was needed. I therefore organised weeklong meetings with a few students and leaders in the residence to hear from them what the conditions in the residence are like, what the relationships between the students, the leaders and the House Father are like. After that I wrote up a summary that I shared with Ayesha as the WAQE Head, Xola as the SRC Chair, and Kira as the SRC Vice Chair. This was all in preparation for the meeting we eventually had with some Rectorate members, Dr Makhetha from DSAf, and Pieter Kloppers from CSC. The most important outcome of that meeting was that SRC Transformation needed to keep an eye on Huis Marais and really assist the residence to transform as the solution cannot solely be placed in the hands of those who were part of creating the problem.
7. I was the SRC representative on the #Action4Inclusion team. When I joined the team, I identified that a lot of work was required regarding marketing as well as brand identity. Therefore, my main responsibility became liaising with Corporate Comms to design the campaign's logo, posters, website, and home pages on the GivenGain and Alumni *** pages. Our big events for the year were the Table Mountain Hike and the Idas Valley trail walk. I organised and budgeted for transport for the Table Mountain Hike, so all students did was send me their details and I put them on the list for transport to and from Cape Town.
8. I started the BeYou initiative which assists students who wish to have their titles on the University system and on their student cards reflect their correct gendered or non-gendered titles (Mr., Miss, Mx) if they have since changed from their time of application. I asked the Registrar for assistance with the implementation of this initiative as it required a lot of administrative work, and she gladly agreed. She gave me a contact in the Centre for Student Information System Support (SISS), Helene Nieuwoudt. I will be working closely with her on the progress of the initiative administratively. I also felt it would be best to tag in someone from the TSR so that they can assist from a Tygerberg perspective so I asked the Social Justice Manager, Realeboga Mothupi, to work with me on this initiative and she agreed so we will be handling everything together.
9. I was a member of the core team for the RegisterAll task team dealing with both Stellenbosch and Tygerberg campuses. My main duties were to create a list of the students who were eligible for funding from the initial screening weekly meetings, after the initial weekly screening meetings, and sending it to the bursary departments and Post graduate office. I was also responsible for informing the Registrar's division of the outcome of the students who will be receiving funding from the campaign.





Plans for next term.

1. Implementing the CEFCP programme to assist the members of the TCE Forum.
2. Planning events for the Action4Inclusion campaign and continuing the development of the marketing of the campaign. Finalising payment for the students who were funded by the campaign in 2020 and finalising the criteria for the students who will be funded in 2021.
3. I will be working with WAQE to develop safe spaces that will be taking place weekly on Stellenbosch and Tygerberg campuses that will be aimed at creating educational and supportive spaces for different marginalised students.

Budget Overview

Transformation											
Requested Funds		R 31 779,00									
Project	Note	Amount	Note	Description	Breakdown of Projects Expense Type	Quantity	Price	Amount			
Discretionary Fund		R 1 000,00	1	<u>Student ITC Development</u>							
Student ITC Development	1	R 1 260,00		In-person Meetings	Food & Drinks	5,00	R 200,00	R 1 000,00			
Action4Inclusion Campaign	2	R 5 092,00		Transport	Transport	10,00	R 26,00	R 260,00			
TCE Training Workshop	3	R 20 000,00									R 1 260,00
Safe Spaces (Collab with WAQE)	4	R 3 115,00	2	<u>Action4Inclusion Campaign</u>							
Member Expenses	5	R 1 312,00		Weekly summit transport	Transport	10,00	R 334,00	R 3 340,00			
		R 31 779,00		Table Mountain Transport	Transport	1,00	R 876,00	R 876,00			
				Pniel Walkathon	Transport	1,00	R 876,00	R 876,00			
											R 5 092,00
			3	<u>TCE Training Workshop</u>							
				FV2S Training	Training	4,00	R 2 000,00	R 8 000,00			
				Refreshments	Food & Drinks	4,00	R 3 000,00	R 12 000,00			
											R 20 000,00
			4	<u>Safe Spaces (Collab with WAQE)</u>							
				Transport	Transport	5,00	R 623,00	R 3 115,00			
											R 3 115,00
			5	<u>Member Expenses</u>							
				Data Costs (4GB)	Internet & Telecommunication	4,00	R 328,00	R 1 312,00			
											R 1 312,00

The costs that were spent this past term were:

1. Student ITC Development = R1 260
2. Action4Inclusion Campaign = R5 092
3. Two months Member Expenses = R656

Recommendations to improve portfolio.

The only recommendation I have is that my successor uses their staff equivalents as soon and as much as possible. Having support from people in the Transformation Office, Student Affairs, Equality Unit, etc. is extremely helpful.

Important Contacts

- Babalwa Gusha – bgusha@sun.ac.za – Programme Coordinator at Transformation Office
- Yeki Mosomothane – yekim@sun.ac.za – Multicultural Educator and Coordinator at Centre for Student Communities
- Spurgeon Wilson – spurgeon@sun.ac.za – Programme Manager at Centre for Student Leadership Experiential Education and Citizenship
- Tarien Jacobs – tarien@sun.ac.za – Personal Assistant to the Registrar
- Ronel Retief – ronelretief@sun.ac.za - Registrar
- Helene Nieuwoudt – hj@sun.ac.za – Business Specialist at Student Information System Support

