



**Stellenbosch**

UNIVERSITY  
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**SRC**

Students' Representative Council  
Ibhunga elimele abafundi  
Studenteraad



## SRC TERM I REPORT

### SRC STUDENT WELLNESS AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



Students' Representative Council

Third Floor, Neelsie Student Centre

Private Bag XI, Matieland, 7602

Tel: +27 21 808 2757 | Email: [sr@sun.ac.za](mailto:sr@sun.ac.za)



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Tel: +27 21 808 2757 | Email: [sr@sun.ac.za](mailto:sr@sun.ac.za)

Prince Qengqa – SRC Vice- Student Wellness and Leadership Development Officer – [prince@sun.ac.za](mailto:prince@sun.ac.za)

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## Foreword

**Molweni Bafundi!**

I would first like to thank everyone that participated the SRC Elections. The term has been challenging as well as exciting at the same time. I believe in taking a stand, leading through action rather than romanticising our real struggles!!

**The Mandate is Clear!! Phatha Mfundi phatha!**

## Constitutional Responsibilities

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According to the student constitution, constitutional responsibilities are the following:

The core functions of the Students' Representative Council include – (1) To act in the best interest of students and to actively promote students' rights under CHAPTER 2. (2) To represent students at – (a) The University Council. (b) The Senate. (c) The Institutional Forum. (d) Other committees, structures, and functionaries of the University. (e) National and international student structures. (3) To evaluate the University policy and give input in the formulation thereof. (4) To formulate and maintain a policy to ensure that the SRC performs its functions and duties effectively. (5) To facilitate projects and initiatives to the benefit of students. (6) To inform students continuously, and obtain feedback, about its activities.

## Portfolio Overview: Student Wellness

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The portfolio has gone through many evolutions over the past few years, the most notable occurring in the 2018/19 term when a committee was created to draft the Mental Health Policy. The policy draft was both influenced by and influenced discussions around mental health at Stellenbosch University (SU).

The 2018/19 term was unfortunately heavily impacted by the global coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. It is however evident through her plans, and her speeches during the caucuses, that she had a great motivation to broaden and destigmatize the conversation around mental health. – Chloe Krieger (Student wellness 2019/20)

I am of the strong opinion that there are many factors that affect one's mental wellness, besides obvious mental illness, and it is for this reason that the 2020/21 plan for this portfolio is to spend at least a month specifically focusing on the different aspects of the Wellness Wheel in an effort to improve overall well-being-(Makabongwe Chido Kasek)20/21

In 2022 I am happy to announce that the mental health plan was finally approved. In my term I want to build on what Makabongwe had started and that is why I am continuing with the wellness wheel. I also want to be more visible on campus to make it easier for students to reach out to me. I have realised that we cannot fight the mental health problem alone and that is why collaboration between me and CSCD is going to be the core of my term- (Chris Briel) 2021/22

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An alternate viewpoint on mental health awareness is being introduced in the current year (2023), allowing for more psychological activities, initiatives, and programs with the support of all pertinent stakeholders. Due to its nature, the portfolio has historically partnered primarily with the Centre for Student Counselling and Development (CSCD), which is a division of the Division of Student Affairs. Once more, the portfolio has restricted its ability to collaborate with social worker offices as it did before the COVID-19 outbreak. Fighting the real challenge of food security on campus is the mandate of this connection. The portfolio's affiliations go beyond campus-only relationships to welcome several national institutions, such as Higher Health to bright light, ease the stress and most importantly ensure student success through student servitude.

## Portfolio Overview: Student Leadership Development

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The role of the Leadership Development portfolio head is to facilitate non-SRC leadership development for positional and non-positional leaders. To liaise with Centre for Student Leadership, Experiential Education and Citizenship (CSLEEC) and Frederik van Zyl Slabbert Institute for Student Leadership Development (FVZS) regarding Masterclass, LSAL, LiC, and short course offering and to liaise with the Leadership development members of the faculty and community structures. Their role is to improve accessibility of leadership development and facilitate leadership collaboration on campus. In the current year the portfolio is constitutionally mandated to facilitate active intervention in different leadership structures on campus due to real student issues that seemed to be left behind closed doors of the SRC. Critical issues one being the accommodation crisis. This will be facilitated through engagement. Shortly the portfolio is ready to hold student leaders accountable according to different positions in occupation. Amandla!!

## Committees/Task Teams

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I serve on the following Committees and or Task Teams:

- **Student Achievement Committee**  
The committee participates in the procedure for presenting students the Rectors Awards for Excellence
- **Student Affairs Selection Committee**  
The committee is mandated to preside over developments, reviews, and recommends policy for student activities and services such as housing, health, food, athletics, financial aid, campus events, and student behavior
- **Gender Based Violence Monitoring Group**  
The group is mandated to overlook, to take and tracking down progress pertaining GBV on campus.

**! All the committees haven't met yet**

## Task Teams

The registration Champions

- The mandate of the task team was assisted students with registration process as well other concerns that resonates with the registration. This group was split into two group other SRC members like me were stationed in the office while the rest of SRC members and volunteers from SASCO and EFFSC stationed in outside Admin A.
- From the 30 January until 13 Feb I was assigned to Emergency accommodation placement, (backpackers)

## Term I Overview: Student Wellness

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During my first term in office, at the begging, I arraigned a meeting with my predecessor, Mr. Chris Briel to ensure I took over with an idea to manage the portfolio. Followed by the meeting with the Deputy Director of the Centre for Student Counselling and Development (CSCD) Mr. Charl Davids on 16 September 2022 at 37 Victoria Street. The purpose of the meeting was to find out what the department has to do for student body regardless of the general items they offer. This meeting was motivated by the raising number of suicidal attempts along with three successful attempts. Ideas were shared and the logic behind this was visited to bring solutions. A few ideas were tabled one being the introduction of physical activities on campus, all plans are well-ready to be for implementation. I am well informed and equipped that Mental Health and awareness is a serious subject that ought to be daily practiced.

On Tuesday 20 September, at 39 Victoria Street, I had a meeting with the Social Workers' offices with Miss Lizzie Witbooi and Miss Sinazo Nyembezi (Tygerberg campus social worker). Food security was the topic of the day. Firstly, I needed to find out how they can be resourceful to the student body, they explained in reference to their policy and budget allocation. As an intuitive leader, most questions were raised but answers were too minimal. The main challenge was the issue to tackle the 2023 registration period to secure food insecurity for coming in students across the country as students normally pack the SRC offices. The resolution was to laisse on that basis that they will be responsible for all registered students. Unregistered returning students were left behind until the portfolio has to budget for them approximately for two weeks and the funds were ready for consumption.

The University policy restricts the SRC to purchase food for students which is completely are absurd. These students were ought to be compromised in the bigging of this year, we had to make other means at personal capacity.

## Events/ programmes

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### Creative Expression Evening

The event was initially organized by Miss Ane Koegenberg and her team. However, for the Creative Expression Evening event, the drama department worked in conjunction with the SRC student wellness and CSCD. The program started at 18:30 on October 18, 2022, in the Adam Small Foyer. The event's goal was to give students a chance to have fun while maintaining their mental health through the presentation of various outstanding acts. My responsibility was to greet the students, describe my portfolio's activities and programs, and welcome them to the function. The occasion was positive and productive.

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## Wellness Friday

The Wellness Friday has been initiated by the SRC-Wellness Officer and took place on the last Friday of the 2022 academic year. The event took place in the rooftop on 21 October 2022 at noon. The event was fully funded by the portfolio which was a collaborative event with CSCD and South African Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG) counsellors. The SRC offered youthful music, ice cream, and ice lollies, while the CSCD and SADAG were actively engaging with students offering vital information answering questions as well as distributing pamphlets. However, the CSCD also helped in designing the poster which was shared in the student community due to social media platforms. Again, as the creative expression event the purpose was to uplift students as the exam period was at its peak. This was made to lessen the stress that comes with that period of the year. Simply this portfolio is mandated to keep the community alive and happy to ensure student success.

## Term I Overview: Student Leadership Development

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When I first arrived at the office, I was fascinated by the portfolio and prepared for both its strengths and weaknesses. Regrettably, no handover report was provided, and everything was just a mess. We required a prompt reaction to the current situation. The portfolio is extensive and includes many different areas. As a result, we had to separate it into two. The external leadership focuses on student structures and other pertinent structures on campus, one of which being the FVZS institute, as well as other entities beyond university space, while the internal leadership concentrates on SRC internal matters. I am in charge of the portfolio's external aspect, while William Sezoe, the SRC Vice Chairperson, is in charge of internal leadership.

I had to set up a meeting with Miss Heidi October, the deputy director and head of FVZS for student leadership development, due to the portfolio's actual position. The meeting was held at 09 Bosman Street on Tuesday, September 13, at 15:30. The objective of the discussion was to discuss the portfolio's historical relationship with FVZS and to secure future collaborative efforts. As a result of negotiations that were conducted since that time, I'm delighted to announce that the portfolio is now prepared to serve the student body as intended. Programs and cooperative initiatives are underway to start the conversation.

There were any events or programmes in the first term.



## Plans for Next Term: Student Wellness

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I plan on doing the following:

### **Public Conversation with the Students**

The physical interaction with student community with the student community in rooftop. Free gifts give away to participants.

### **Mental health Physical Activities Programme**

This initiative is centered on hosting physical challenges among different residences, Pso and, as well leadership structures. For example, the Coetzeburg hike challenge between TSRC and SRC.

## Plans for Next Term: Student Leadership and Development

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I plan on doing the following

### **Campus Leadership Panel Discussion**

To strengthen leadership on campus, by addressing issues that matter the most. Aiming to shift from the traditional consequential approach in dealing with student issues which results in "leadership in crisis".

### **Gender-Based violence Critique Programme**

All male residences, senior residences, and PSOs are invited to take part in this project, which will only be implemented there. Examining the issue that is causing this epidemic is the main goal. Males and m/x residents will lead the discussion, and females and m/x residents are invited to ask the participants questions.

