



SRC 2020/2021 Term 3 Report

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Constitutional Responsibilities

The Senior Prim Committee (SPC) has a constitutional mandate to actively promote the rights of students contained in CHAPTER 2 of the Student Constitution, and specifically the right, under section 8 (1), to an enabling campus environment in which student success and academic excellence are encouraged and pursued.

The SPC's duties and powers are:

(1) The Senior Prim Committee represents the interests of the residents of senior residences, in that capacity, at the SRC and the University management.

(2) The Senior Prim Committee has the powers necessary for the performance of its duties.

The SPC this term exercised its mandate of representing senior students in various committee meetings and engagements which shall be elaborated on in the section dealing with committees and task teams.

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Portfolio Overview

The Senior Prim Committee consists of a Chair, a Vice-Chair, and the Prim, or their nominee, of each senior residence, as well as any other members that are provided for in the constitution of the Senior Prim Committee. Other members provided for in the SPC are the Senior Living Spaces (SLS) cluster convenors and a new pilot structure for students residing outside of residence – Rubix.net.

Committees / Task Teams

- a) SPC Constitutional Task Team was set-up and led by the Vice-Chair of the SPC that will;
 1. Review constitutions that exist in senior residences and recommend improvements.
 2. Establishing a process to draw up constitutions for a number of senior residences that don't have any.
 3. Starting the constitutional amendment process for the SPC's own constitution which is unnecessarily cumbersome and complicated.
- b) Senior Living Spaces Driving School steering committee
 1. The steering committee includes the Chairperson of the SPC, a cluster convenor of SLS and the Executive leader of Rubix.net
 2. The aim is to develop and launch the SLS Driving School 2021 initiative.
- c) Maties Drive / Bridge the Gap Annual Fund Committee
 1. The SLS Driving School has now been incorporated into the Alumni Office's annual fundraising drive which includes other initiatives like Move4Food. This committee includes Alumni office Senior Director and a number of key staff as well the SPC Chair and Rubix.net Executive Leader.
- d) LSAL: Leadership Summit for Aspiring Leaders 2021
 1. Anri Magerman (Staff), Ayanda Ntuli (Communications co-coordinator for DSAF), Kristen Arends (Chair for TSR), Leon Wilkinson (Chair: Prim Committee), Luigia Nicholas (SRC: Special Needs Manager & LSAL tracking mentor - Student), Kira Alberts (SRC: Vice-chair), Thulani Hlatswayo (Student Governance), Nopi Mubaiwa (LSAL tracking mentor - Student), Quinton Apollis (SSC), Masixole Ndamandama (Chair for Senior Prim Committee), Zimbili Sibiya (Student in Forestry), Nosi Matiwane (FVZSI Programme Administrator), Carla de Beer (FVZSI Programme Administrator), Heidi October (Head: FVZSI), Spurgeon-Haddon Wilson (Programme Manager: FVZSI)
 2. LSAL will be a platform for leaders to mentor aspiring leaders. LSAL will be more focused on growing the leadership pipeline and creating a platform that would develop the leadership skills of aspiring student leaders.

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Term Overview

The constitutional review committee continues to do its work. The scope was originally too big so the focus shifted to residence house committees thus far. The work started with an engagement phase with the residences of; Concordia, Lobelia, Huis de Villiers and Huis MacDonald. The SPC mandate went as far as to equip the House Committees (HC) with knowledge of how constitutions work, their necessity and the overall student constitution framework of the university. The work to draw up constitutions is now being driven by the HCs themselves with a follow up report due at the end of term.

The SLS Driving School will launch for applications at the start of the second semester. This project aims to sponsor driving lessons for 20 senior students through the pooling of funds from the SPC, SLS and Rubix.net. Weekly meetings have been held by the committee to discuss the application process, eligibility and selection criteria. The applications are now open and close on 17 August thereby allowing interviews to start to select the target beneficiaries. Driving lessons are scheduled to start in September and run through October 2021.

The Bridge the Gap Annual Fund Committee has started the fundraising of “Maties Drives” a spin-off of the SLS Driving School which aims to sponsor even more students to obtain their driving license from next year. Meetings thus far have included how to align the Alumni office’s work within the senior space and including their offering in early HK training to inform student leaders. A critique that was brought up is often students don’t know the value of work and programmes run by the alumni office and ambassadors who are non-positional leaders are perhaps needed to help spread the word.

The discussion in the LSAL committee has been the plan for the conference – what LSAL is trying to achieve, contemporary and meaningful topics for new leaders on campus and good facilitators. LSAL will not be a replacement for SU Leads. The objective of the student conference is to help with leadership and leadership perceptions. Run by CSLEEC, it will look at your strengths and see where you can contribute as a future positional or non-positional leader and even foster active student citizenry participation on campus. Most of the weekly talks have centred around the need to identify what will be the focus of the summit. In 2020 it was about stepping up and seeing what you could contribute. Talks are ongoing with the marketing team hoping to consolidate the work in early semester 2.

A summit was also organized in conjunction with Action 4 Inclusion - Social Justice Chair – Prof Thuli Madonsela, Senior Living Spaces and the Transformation committee of the SRC to Helderberg Mountain Nature Reserve in May. The event was a success as it attracted students to hike just before the exam season and raised funds for the important initiative.

Budget

Budget & Reasoning

Original Budget

SLS Dinner	10 000
SLS Driving School	10 000
Honorariums	12 000
Branding	4 000

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Revised Budget

SLS Driving School	25 000
Training	3000
Honorariums	12 000

Expenditure so far

Training 3000

A4I Hike 5200

Plans for next term

The SLS Driving School and Maties Drives initiatives will be the key focus moving forward in the second semester as well as leadership information session for future HKs who are considering running for the election season of 2022.

The elections have been planned for the new SPC for the 26th of August and the Annual General Meeting notice has already been sent out. A training session for specifically senior leaders has been designed as the usual one for all leaders was found to be catering mainly to the needs of new leaders, mainly in the undergraduate residences.

Another summit is also being organized with LLL, SLS and the SPC for the 22nd of August.

Recommendations to improve portfolio

Stronger links, mandate, training and Res Education is needed from the Centre of Student Communities. Right now a lack of vision, ownership and institutional plan by the Centre of Student Communities (CSC) hinders the potential of the Senior Prim Committee. Communication is rare from CSC to the SPC even though that is responsible body of SPC, it seems there is an inertia to acknowledge and accept this. A meeting at the beginning of our term was held with stakeholders from the CSC to address this issues however the issues still persist.

A number of core and necessary development programmes are absent from the CSC that are geared at leadership development and formalization of the senior residence leadership spaces.

- 1) A leadership development plan for senior leaders doesn't exist in the co-curricular handbook however we've had strong engagements on piloting one this year with Multicultural Education Coordinator.
- 2) A Senior Prim leadership development plan should also be introduced to address a lot of issues that Prims/House Leaders have about their role and the role of the res head. A review of our constitution should also be finalized.
- 3) The next leader of this portfolio has to schedule biweekly meetings with the Director of CSC from the beginning of their term to make sure there is better and constant communication. There are also a number of sub-committees that the CSC operates where important residence information is discussed – the next SPC leader needs to find out about all of these and which ones are important to have representatives in.

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- 4) There should be at least one compulsory RedEd Programme in senior residences as a condition if accepting your stay. Themes that could be explored are GBV, Life after Study etc.
- 5) A weakness identified by SLS Cluster Convenors last year was the slow elections of senior residences which hampered the progress of new leadership terms. This has largely been resolved this year, with only the LLL interns being appointed out of the September yearly elections cycle. No guidance for instance has been communicated through us about when the CSC wants leaders elected by for 2022, a major issue is the lack of communication. Perhaps a round table with the Senior Director of Student Governance would be a good place to start for the next incoming committee.

Student Governance has played a greater collaborative role with the SPC to assist with administrative duties and ongoing direction with campus developments in the upcoming academic year.

Important Contacts

Noel Bekkers noelbek@sun.ac.za ResED Group Coordinator – Senior Living Spaces

Enos Lekala enos@sun.ac.za LLL Coordinator and Huis Russel Botman Res Head

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