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Second Term Report of the Deputy Speaker Internal

# 1. Introduction

This is the third term report of the Deputy Speaker Internal and Accountability Committee Chairperson of Student Parliament 2021. In my previous report, I noted that Student Parliament (“SP”) faces numerous challenges, particularly relating to governing policies and general mandates. Although this is still true, the SP Committee of 2021 has made great strides forward in the fulfilment of our mandate. This report will analyse the status and progress of this portfolio.

# 2. Third Term Overview

2.1. Third Sitting

The ordinary third sitting of Student Parliament did not take place this year. The original plan was for us to have an extraordinary sitting, in which both deputies presented their reports, and then a third sitting in which the sole agenda point would be around Speaker elections. The extraordinary sitting did happen, and I especially spent a lot of time going through the Accountability Committee’s investigation of the SRC. However, due to there being no Speaker applications, it was decided that the third sitting would be cancelled seeing as a sitting of sorts was held anyway.

2.2. SRC Review

In my previous report, I explained the context and process of the AC’s investigation of the SRC. All promises made in that report were fulfilled. A final report, consisting of the ACs final stance on the initial report after the SRC was given an opportunity to respond, was compiled. This made the majority of the body of the AC report that was delivered in our extraordinary sitting. The final report is available on the SP website.

2.3. Constitutional Review Committee

The CRC members were appointed last term. Tamara Foyn unfortunately resigned. Our remaining member has not been able to do much, but this is largely due to most of us having no idea what the new Constitution actually wants from SP. We do not understand the structure. Personally, I feel as though the SRC’s constitution committee was quite undermining in their ignoring of our suggestions to keep Parliament in one house. People who are not part of the structure rewrote what we should look like, and the results were that of impracticality. I do not foresee the Constitutions being completed by the end of our term, and the Steering Committee ought to reassess how we are going to continue or handover this process so that the work already put in does not go to waste.

2.4. Co-curriculum Application

The Steering committee made the decision to withdraw from the co-curriculum application process. This decision was based on the fact that (1) we believed recognition on our transcript for SP would undermine the value of our other leadership positions that do not have formal recognition but are equally (if not more) strenuous, and (2) we are burning out and the application process takes a lot of time and energy.

# 3. Challenges

All challenges faced this term were actually indirectly the results of personal issues. At this point, there is nothing relevant to note that has not been stated in previous reports.

# 4. Goals

This incoming term, I hope that SP gets competent leadership to take over from the current committee members, so that the work that we have out down does not go to waste.

# 5. Conclusion

This has been a very administrative heavy term, which leaves little to report on here. My main concern right now is that we have put a lot of work into building good foundations for SP, but no one really knows what SP will look like next year. It may continue as it did this year – which is still a major improvement from last year and would not be terrible. It may wither back into the state it was in last year due to incompetent leadership or lack of interest – in which case I will be devastated. Or, the most likely outcome, next year will start to morph into the new bicameral parliament suggested in the new Student Constitution – in which case I have no ide what will happen, and that scares me somewhat. Either way, I only have a month left in this position, and I am tired and cannot wait to hand over 😊.