



## SRC Reflection

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How do we understand the work of Transformation? This question has been one that has crossed my mind countless times as I've thought about how the portfolio would move forward. I've asked myself if the work of Transformation is something that is visible? Is it neat? Is it comfortable? And how do we measure it?

In the search for answers, I looked at how the transformation portfolio was run by Viwe Kobokana. In looking at the work that she did during her term, it became evident that transformation is a paradox. It is something that is visible, yet the work of Transformation goes unseen. Its results are neat, but the process is messy. It is work that brings comfort, but the process is uncomfortable. And we cannot always measure the incremental progress that is made, but when we look back, we can see visible Transformation.

So what then is the purpose of this paradoxical work? In 2021, the focus was clearly student-centered transformation. A lot of the groundwork was put into place that would help to bring various structures together, in order for the work of Transformation to become less fragmented. It is no secret that when we work together, we can achieve so much more than what our individual efforts could accomplish. In building on the work that has already been done, the focus of Transformation during 2022 will also be Transformation that places students, and their interests, at the center of decision making and deliberation. The reason is that no one person can know what the focus of Transformation should be.



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Our lived experiences inform our understanding of - and approach towards - the world. Therefore it is crucial to have the voices of all students represented when the work of Transformation is discussed.

It is important to be mindful of the issues that are pressing for students. Covid-19 disrupted all of our lives, and it would be foolish to disregard the long-term impacts that the pandemic has had. Many students lost parents, family, and friends. We have experienced trauma and we find ourselves as different people on the same campus. Hopefully, through fighting for students, we can find ourselves on a kinder campus next year. One that recognizes the trauma of financial exclusion; yet offers solutions and help to ensure that all students have access to education. A campus that is not only aware of the pandemic of Gender-Based Violence, but also a campus that is unapologetically ANTI-Gender-Based Violence. I hope that we find ourselves on a campus that listens to the voices of students; and that we have leaders on our campus who are prepared and willing to take the inputs that students give, in order to help inform their work.

With this goal in mind, Transformation during 2022 will aim to further develop the Transformation and Critical Engagement Forum started by Viwe Kobokana. The aim of this forum is to empower student leaders across our campuses to build the capacity needed in order to host and facilitate courageous conversations in their respective communities. As students, it is vitally important that we are aware of the issues that are prevalent in our spaces.



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Moreover, it is important that we are able to have critical conversations as students about these issues, and how we can best go about providing actionable solutions. Through further developing the Transformation and Critical Engagement Forum, the goal is to empower students to have these necessary conversations.

Additionally, the Transformation portfolio has had great success in establishing and running the BeYou Initiative, a program aimed at allowing students to change their title to their preferred gendered or non-gendered title on the university's systems. The program also provided students with new student cards. The BeYou initiative is a shining example of how student led Transformation can best be implemented. The goal for the Transformation portfolio moving into 2022 is to highlight further initiatives that can be developed in order to help students.

Ultimately, the goal of Transformation is to have a campus that is compassionate, collaborative, and forward-moving.

*"It is only with the heart that one can see rightly. What is essential is invisible to the eye."*

-Antoine de Saint Exupery