



Die Primkomitee  
The Prim Committee  
Universiteit | Stellenbosch | University



## **Prim Committee Task Team: Student Leadership Structures**

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### **Proposed Student Leadership Structure:**

#### **1 SRc structure and portfolios:**

##### **SRc portfolios:**

- Chairperson
- Vice Chairperson
- Treasurer / Financial Manager (student fees included)
- Secretary and Communication (as a fixed portfolio with no other portfolio responsibility)
- Critical Engagement
- TDI (Transformation, Diversity and Inclusivity)
- Student Relations, Communities and Success
- Leadership and Student Development
- Sustainability (institutional plan is foundation for this portfolio)

##### **Managerial positions:**

- Matie Life
- Sport\*\*
- Culture\*\*
- Marketing and Branding
- Community Engagement\*\*

##### **Portfolios without a fixed allocation:**

- Safety
- Internal and External relations

##### ***Ex officio* SRc member:**

- ABR Chairperson
- Society Council Chairperson

- Prim Committee Chairperson
- Prim Committee Vice-chairperson
- MILAK Student Captain
- TSR Chairperson
- MAD<sup>2</sup> Coordinator (Head Cluster Convener)\*

Note: The PK Task Team is of opinion that houses' specific needs differ from those of the student body as whole. Consequential structural differences thus contribute to the effective working of houses. Houses must, however, still use this structure as a guideline for portfolio allocation. In addition, every house must have a contact person for every proposed SRc portfolio.

\* 'MAD<sup>2</sup> Coordinator (Head Cluster Convener)' - The MAD<sup>2</sup> Coordinator fulfills a supervisory role over the Cluster Conveners. The proposed MAD<sup>2</sup> committee will consist of the MAD<sup>2</sup> Coordinator as well as all the Cluster Conveners. Together with the function of Head Cluster Convener, the MAD<sup>2</sup> Coordinator will also be in charge of organizing 'Vensters'.

\*\* 'Lobbying committees' to be established for the portfolios of Sport, Culture and Community Engagement. The specific SRc member/manager will serve as the *ex officio* chairperson of the lobbying committee. The committee will be obliged to meet at least once a month - obligation will rest on *Ex officio* chairperson of committee. Meetings serve as a communication forum between houses, the SRc, and relevant US bodies and management.

(A similar system is applied at the North West University, whereby the specific SRc member (*ex officio* chairperson of committee) meets with the relevant HK members and other interested parties on a weekly basis.)

## **2 SRc election and shadow period:**

-SRc election must take place before the election of *Primarii* and/or House Committee members, in the third term of every year.

-SRc term to officially start, at the very latest, on the first day of the fourth term of every year.

## **3 Prerequisites for SRc candidate eligibility**

The following prerequisites need to be met for SRc candidate eligibility:

(a) Candidates should have served on any of the following positions in any preceding year:

- SRc
- Primarius/Primaria
- House Committee

- **Mentor**
- **SRc sub-committee**
- **Cluster Convener**
- **Faculty Council**
- **Chairperson/Vice Chairperson of a society (only official US societies)**

Candidates who wish to stand in the general SRc election, but **do not** meet the set criteria under 3(a) can apply to the Election Convener to consider the merit of the candidate's application, provided that prerequisites (b) and (c) have been met.

#### **(b) Academic requirement**

**The academic requirement for SRc eligibility should be set (remain set) at 'Residence HEMIS'**

Candidates who wish to stand in the open election, but **do not** meet the set criteria under 3(b) due to special circumstances e.g. EDP, Special Students, Change of degree, can apply to the cluster conveners and with the consultation of Faculty Deans will consider the merit of the candidate's academic eligibility.

**(The University of the Free State and North West University requires a 60% average for SRc candidate eligibility)**

#### **c) 200 signatures**

**Each candidate's candidacy (nomination form) must be seconded by 200 registered students. This must be done by means of the seconder's name, student number and signature.**

(Recommendation aligned with the SRc election provisions of the University of Pretoria and the University of the Free State)

**Rationale for criteria:** This recommendation is primarily aimed at addressing the lack of continuity in student leadership that has plagued the University of Stellenbosch for many years. **The above-mentioned recommendations are an amalgamation of the student leadership structures of other South African universities that have been tailored to fit the needs of the University of Stellenbosch.**

Further examples of measures instituted by other universities in South Africa to ensure that student leaders possess all the necessary institutional knowledge and experience, and thus ensuring the continuity of leadership, include:

**-University of Cape Town:**

-SRc members obliged to serve two consecutive terms (recently amended).

**-North West University:**

-Prerequisites for SRc eligibility include that candidates must have served on the House Committee of a 'day house' or on a SRc sub-committee.

-SRc Chairperson and SRc Vice Chairperson must have served out at least one term on the SRc in any preceding year.

**-University of the Free State:**

-Prerequisites for SRc eligibility include that a candidate must have been a registered student at the university for at least three consecutive semesters.

-A candidate must have served in a recognised leadership position in any preceding year- appeal process available to declare leadership position official by Election Committee.

-SRc Chairperson and SRc Vice Chairperson must have served out at least one term on the SRc in any preceding year.

**4 SRc Election process:**

Every candidate's Curriculum Vitae, together with a performance evaluation of his/her term in office (listed under 3(a)) should be made public during the SRc election period.

(Recommendation aligned with the SRc election provisions of the University of Pretoria)

**5 Further recommendations regarding the SRc structure and operation:**

**a) SRc prerogative to divide/split academic year:**

The PK Task Team is of the opinion that the differentiation between SRc members and other student leadership positions on campus regarding the option enjoyed by SRc members to split an academic year (for the year in office) cannot be justified in terms of workload and consequential pressure on academic performance. The task team feels that this aspect needs to be revisited and proposes that SRc members must only enjoy the stated prerogative if the member exercising this option declares his availability for SRc candidacy for the subsequent SRc term as well (i.e the term following).

**b) No houses may be allocated to the SRc Chairperson (in capacity as SRc guardian)**

This recommendation is founded on research done on other South African universities. We hold the opinion that this measure will help to relieve the workload

on the SRc Chairperson and thereby enabling him/her to focus on other tasks at hand.

**c) SRc members must attend a House Committee meeting of their respected guardian houses once a month.**

Measure to improve communication between the SRc and houses and thereby fostering a culture of cooperation between various levels of student leadership.

**6 Prim Committee Structure:**

**Proposed amendment to PK Constitution (Addendum B):**

The current sections reads as follow:

(8) The two (2) Prim Committee representatives on the Students' Representative Council must consist of a residence and a PSO representative. In other words, if an outgoing head student of a residence is elected as Chairperson of the Prim Committee, the Vice-Chairperson must be a head student of a PSO ward. The provision also works the other way round if the newly elected Chairperson is an outgoing head student of a PSO ward.

**It is proposed that section (8) of Addendum B be amended to read as follow:**

(8) The two (2) Prim Committee representatives on the Students' Representative Council must consist of a residence and a PSO representative. This provision must be interpreted to mean that the residence representative on the Students' Representative Council can be either an outgoing head student of a residence or an outgoing head student of a PSO. This provision also applies *mutandis mutatis* to a PSO representative.