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Stellenbosch SRC 2015/16

Term report 1

September 2015 – November 2015

Portfolio: Matie Identity

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Date: 27 November 2015



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General overview

Personal reflection

I am truly excited about the potential and prospects of the portfolio as they reconcile with my personal values of betterment. Having the onus of unifying campus is indeed a very challenging task and responsibility, however, I am confident in my team and strategic partners that we shall bring a new dynamic of student life.

Portfolio overview

Matie Identity seeks to bring a unique thought towards identity, through creating events that seek to celebrate individual and collective identity and simultaneously eliminating barriers of student access and success or identity exclusions in events, also cultivating individual and unison thoughts towards an aspirational purport, inter alia.

Matie Identity further seeks to address the identity elements of being a Stellenbosch University student through thorough understanding of intersectionality and has the added responsibility of solidifying relevance, positive social impact, and social cohesion. The scope of the portfolio is multifaceted, diverging from enumerated themes of: 1) inclusive and dynamic event creation, 2) minority group foci and intersectional identity, 3) identity transformation in terms of empowerment initiatives, and 4) enhanced social cohesion and impact, inter alia, as well as making identity reflective of intrinsic human dignity and imbued constitutional ethos.

Portfolio responsibilities overview

As per the portfolio's executive governance document, the Portfolio is ultimately responsible for:

- Realising effectively and pragmatically the SRC Vision for "*innovatively building our Matie Identity*" alongside inclusivity and student success, and Matie Identity's Strategic Planning documents.
- Ensuring that all student identities, not limited to: physically-challenged persons, LGBTQIPA+ students, First Generation students, international students, and intersectional identities, are: well-represented, non-discriminated against, and can fully and freely partake in all Matie Identity events and affairs without any barrier or infringement of identity, access, or success.
- Carrying out all its mandates in the ethos and virtues described in the SRC Vision documents and enshrined in the SU Student Constitution as well as South African constitutional principles,
- Creating inclusive and dynamic events, campaigns, platforms, or critical discussions on matters relating to student identities, as well as inclusivity and diversity.

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- Solidifying the SRC's social cohesion aspect with the Stellenbosch, Tygerberg and Saldanha campuses as well as integrating the SRC with the student community.

Committee overview (i/a)

The executive committee that is ultimately responsible for all the endeavours and planning for the portfolio and realising the events comprises of 7 individuals. To ensure that various aspects of identity shall be encompassed in all event creation and likewise planning, the committee is very diverse as 85% are female with other first generation cohorts. The committee officially had its signing and brief planning session for the priority events to take place pre- and post- welcoming on Thursday, 26 November 2015.

Portfolio Priorities

- Planning is essential and time is indeed limited, one of our outcomes as an executive committee is that we had strategized on the welcoming of First Generation students.
- The Identity Empowerment Forum initiative has received consent from Pieter Kloppers (Director: Centre for student structures and communities). It has a set deadline to commence shortly after welcoming and to run effectively under the baton and collaboration, inter alia, with Cluster convenors and the LLL Initiative to provide an overall curricula build and holistic social dynamic.
- Obtaining alternative or strategic sponsorships is the pivotal ingredient towards our event creation.

How can the portfolio be improved?

Owing to the limited amount of time, the portfolio should strengthen its budgetary provisions and securing the event to fast track the logistical outlines.



Responsibility overview

Responsibility 1: Establishing and managing an executive committee

Overview of responsibility

The executive committee of Matie Identity is ultimately responsible for creating innovative events aimed primarily at unifying campus and bridging the social impact and social cohesion of the SRC with the social euphoria and expectations of students.

Desired outcomes of responsibility

- Achieve all event creation and portfolio actualisation goals.
- Promote inclusivity and cultivate leadership skills.
- Promote critical, creative, and dynamic thinking.
- Direct and foster a cohesive teamwork space.

Outcomes achieved with responsibility

The executive committee has already been established and signed a declaration towards the ideals of the portfolio and broader SRC. The team has already started brainstorming ideas and a marketing strategy will follow shortly.

Inter alia, Planning has been intensified for a possible First generation student's conference to provide an empowering session to introduce various university success themes.

How can the execution of this responsibility be improved?

Owing to the various commitments of my team, it remains a challenge to fast-track thinking and adequate planning given such a limited time and span. I believe thus far, there has been a truly efficient and effective planning from my team.

Responsibility 2: Actualising the IEF Initiative

Overview of responsibility

To ensure that individuals can be able to learn and empower themselves in the forum and advance important ideals whilst imbuing university attributes.

Desired outcomes of responsibility

Have institutional seconding towards social transformation and identity empowerment forum.

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Outcomes achieved with responsibility

The university, particularly the centre for student structures and communities has partnered in this initiative and seek to have it introduced within the cluster context following the university's strategic alliance and social impact endeavours. However, this must still meet with effective consideration the input of LLL Initiative.

Responsibility 3: Finalising the Matie Identity Launch

Overview of responsibility

To ensure that the integrity of individual identities is maintained and effectively exuded in all intrinsic elements of the video catalogue as well as ensuring that the message of inclusivity and diversity is well adhered to by the prospects and unfolding of the project.

Desired outcomes of responsibility

To have a video catalogue that details the identity and how they wish to be portrayed within Stellenbosch.

Outcomes achieved with responsibility

I have already collaborated with Henk Oets and Tony Houz in this project and they have agreed to the prescribed conditions.

How can the execution of this responsibility be improved?

The amelioration aspect is still contingent on the outcome or sample that both artists shall make available for viewing. The launch planning is still underway.



Supportive Information

Relevant contact information

Monica du Toit	mdt@sun.ac.za	Transformation Office
Tony Maake	maaketony@gmail.com	Tonyshouz
Caitlin Troup	ctroup@sun.ac.za	Former Matie Life Manager
Henk Oets	henkoets@gmail.com	Matie Identity Launch

Budgetary overview

The requested budget pending approval is R 103 600.

Project overview (i/a)

Project 1

Identity Empowerment Forum (IEF), a unique and original initiative by Matie Identity, project is a year-long forum to effectively discuss identity elements will be mostly based on intersectionality, essentialism, identity transformation, empowerment, campaign and event creation, and imbuing essential university attributes among students.

The facilitation will work within the cluster context to reconcile an institutional seconding for social transformation within residences with the residence culture receiving pivotal analyses and dovetail.

Project 2

Matie Identity Launch will be introducing the portfolio to residences and possible sponsor on the 5th of February 2016. The planning is still ongoing but will involve a video catalogue of student identities interacting in various activities.

Overview of Term

Week 4 (4 – 10 October)

This was the first week of office and appointment. The commencement was during the SRC Official handover function and eminent student protest against the 11.5% SU fee increment.



Week 5 (11 – 17 October)

The strategic planning document and budgeting for the portfolio was finalised. The applications and criteria for the Matie Identity Portfolio Executive Committee were finalised and subject to SRC Vice-chairperson for approval. The applications were made open for the public. Finalised major dates with the SRC's Culture Committee regarding the Maties Got Talent Collaboration with deferred planning taking place in 2016.

Week 6 (18 – 24 October)

Managers had the prerogative of selecting their own SRC mentors. Thus, I approached the transformation office to collaborate as Matie Identity is a relatively new portfolio on the SRC and is tasked with transmogrifying the current exclusionary 'ownership' of the Matie experience. Monica du Toit agreed to collaborate with the portfolio and plan strategically with regards to Matie Week, inter alia.

I had a meeting with the former Matie Life manager, Caitlin Troup, who provided both background and guide in the Matie Life events as the former portfolio is absorbed by Matie Identity. The priorities were to find strategic collaborations and sponsors and the promises of collaborating with Matie Sports and finalise wine on the rooiplein planning as most wine farms complete their budgets by February. I delegated such planning

I managed to gain access to the Matie Life's Facebook page and have since communicated most prospects and events relevant for Matie Identity; however, this was during student protests which constrained other pertinent planning and/or subsequent event creation as student voices are fundamental for the portfolio's success.

Week 7 (25 – 31 October)

The Identity Empowerment forum was conceptualised and there was much stakeholder consultation, primarily with the Transformation Office and further curricula building or cementing occurred far more heavily. Owing to the student protest and the absences of key stakeholders, the initiative had to be resumed in November.

Matie Identity will be partaking in a transformation colloquium alongside the Transformation Office on November 30, 2015. The relevance of this event is to enlighten the dynamics of the portfolio and the Identity Empowerment Forum's strategies. The Committees applications were further extended and I decided to 'outsource' other individuals and have interviews of prospective members as the number received online was too minimal.

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Addendums

Addendum 1

Portfolio Strategic Planning

[Please refer to attachment]

Addendum 2

Executive Committee Governance and Disclosure

[Please refer to attachment]