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Stellenbosch SRC 2015/16

Term report 1

September 2015 – November 2015

Portfolio: **Policy Unit**

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Date: **25 November 2015**



Table of Contents

General overview	4
Personal reflection	4
Portfolio overview	4
Portfolio responsibilities overview	4
Committee overview (i/a)	4
Portfolio Priorities	4
How can the portfolio be improved?	4
Responsibility overview.....	5
Responsibility 1: (Please state your responsibility here).....	5
Overview of responsibility.....	5
Desired outcomes of responsibility.....	5
Outcomes achieved with responsibility	5
How can the execution of this responsibility be improved?	5
Responsibility 2: (Please state your responsibility here).....	5
Overview of responsibility.....	5
Desired outcomes of responsibility.....	5
Outcomes achieved with responsibility	5
How can the execution of this responsibility be improved?	5
Responsibility 3: (Please state your responsibility here).....	5
Overview of responsibility.....	5
Desired outcomes of responsibility.....	5
Outcomes achieved with responsibility	6
How can the execution of this responsibility be improved?	6
Supplementary Responsibilities	6
Overview of Supplementary Responsibilities	6
How can the execution of these responsibilities be improved?	6
Supportive Information.....	7
Relevant contact information	7
Budgetary overview	7
Project overview (i/a).....	7
Project 1	7
Project 2	7



Project 3	7
Overview of Term.....	7
Week 1 (14 – 20 September).....	7
Week 2 (21 – 27 September).....	7
Week 3 (28 – 3 October)	7
Week 4 (4 – 10 October)	7
Week 5 (11 – 17 October)	7
Week 6 (18 – 24 October)	7
Week 7 (25 – 31 October)	8
Addendums	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Addendum 1	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Addendum 2	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Addendum 3	Error! Bookmark not defined.



General overview

Personal reflection

No issues, work ran smoothly just a few externalities that fell within the portfolios scope but due to information being withheld damage control measures were put into place instead of the problem being solved proactively, personally the lack of understanding of different portfolios should be addressed personally.

Portfolio overview

Just day-to-day ad hoc work (portfolio based policy work, ensuring that meetings are constitutionally valid, appointed member contracts, etc.), incentivising Elsenburg to accelerate transformation, holding management accountable for not following the correct procedure regarding the student dean appointment, passing various motions (please find attached) and planning for the constitutionally mandated referendum in 2016.

Portfolio responsibilities overview

Making sure actions are constitutionally valid, motions are drafted, correct procedure is followed and holding the SRC, management and different structures accountable for their actions.

Committee overview (i/a)

Committee hasn't been finalised yet, the referendum is taking place in 2016, by then the committee will be set up and the task team for the referendum will be finalised.

Portfolio Priorities

Constitutionality, drafting and checking policy, measuring actions against the rules and policy in place and ad hoc policy and legality checks.

How can the portfolio be improved?

Improving the understanding of the intricate role that the portfolio plays within the SRC and greater campus, the necessity of following procedure and the application of the Constitution of the Republic to ensure a progressive institution where accountability and transparency serves as the norm.



Responsibility overview

Responsibility 1: Constitutional referendum

Overview of responsibility

Putting the Student Constitution to a referendum and possible amendment. The important thing to take into account is that not only should the Student Constitution be developed but the whole student structures should be reviewed. A motion was passed to review all constitutions in the student structure.

Desired outcomes of responsibility

Developing a Student Constitution that is relevant and adequate for the current and future needs through student participation.

Outcomes achieved with responsibility

Refer to 2016

How can the execution of this responsibility be improved?

Refer to 2016

Responsibility 2: Ad hoc policy checking and policy development

Overview of responsibility

Checking actions and decisions taken to ensure that everything falls within the scope of the regulations and procedure. Secondly, passing motions to create the basis for the development of policy (eg. Language Policy motion). Thirdly, making use of the Student Court to develop law and application of the Student Constitution.

Desired outcomes of responsibility

Avoiding unconstitutional action or action contrary to policy and developing policy that is progressive and ensures transformation.

Outcomes achieved with responsibility

Outcomes were achieved except for two isolated incidents; firstly, the student dean appointment that did not take place in accordance with policy; and secondly, where two SRC members acted *ultra vires*.

How can the execution of this responsibility be improved?

Through better communication and understanding of roles and responsibilities in the SRC including the utilisation of the team.

Responsibility 3: Accountability measures

Overview of responsibility

Holding different individuals and structures accountable for their actions and making sure they act within the scope of their authority.

Desired outcomes of responsibility

Constitutional actions and individuals being held accountable if they omit or act outside the scope of their authority.

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Outcomes achieved with responsibility

Outcomes were achieved; the student dean appointment was reversed and two letters of complaint are ready to be served pending the disciplinary committee's formation.

How can the execution of this responsibility be improved?

Effective communication and SRC members and students staying diligent for any possible abuses of policy or rules.

Supplementary Responsibilities

Supplementary responsibilities are responsibilities that are day-to-day, but not major enough to be defined individually.

Overview of Supplementary Responsibilities

- Office work
- Assisting other portfolios with legality issues

How can the execution of these responsibilities be improved?

There is currently no necessity for improvement in this area.



Supportive Information

Relevant contact information

-

Budgetary overview

The budget has not been used and is pending finalisation.

Project overview (i/a)

Project 1

Constitutional Referendum

Project 2

Student Dean appointment

Project 3

Filling policy gaps

Overview of Term

Week 1 (14 – 20 September)

Coming into office, first SRC meeting, making use of the Student Court to get a judgement in favour of the extended application of the Student Constitution regarding the definition of specific words.

Week 2 (21 – 27 September)

Planning for the constitutional referendum and setting up a task team for next year.

Week 3 (28 – 3 October)

Second SRC meeting and language policy motion to establish a clear stance that the SRC is committed to inclusive institution that prioritises transformation.

Week 4 (4 – 10 October)

Holding management accountable for the decision to hire a student dean without following the correct procedure, after communicating with management the appointment was reversed with a assurance that the correct procedure will be followed in future.

Week 5 (11 – 17 October)

Final SRC meeting, tabling and acceptance of three motion, one for the formation of a task team for the constitutional referendum, secondly for the acceptance of the Bill of Rights as supplementary interpretative measure for the Student Constitution during the period of the referendum and a motion in favour of all the residences and student structures to send their constitutions for review to the student court.

Week 6 (18 – 24 October)

Drafting Letters of Complaint against SRC members who acted outside the scope of their authority.

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Week 7 (25 – 31 October)

Concluding the term, meetings with societies and different structures with regards to some constitutional issues and ways to resolve them.