



Stellenbosch

UNIVERSITY
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UNIVERSITEIT

SRC

Students' Representative Council
Ibhunga elimele abaNtuli
Studenteraad



SRC TERM I REPORT

SRC RESEARCH AND DATA ANALYSIS MANAGER



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Foreword

Hello my fellow Maties,

This first term has been as challenging as it has been exciting; truly, it has been an eye-opening experience. From a glimpse into the hard work faculty staff and leadership bodies put in long before the academic year started to inner workings of bureaucratic process to the struggles of students relying on NSFAS and dealing with accommodation issues.

I'd like to thank all the House Committee members and Newcomers who took the time to fill out my first survey on the success of the SRC Welcoming Roadshow. I repeat this often, but it needs to be said again; the insight you provide is invaluable to us. It helps us making better decisions for you that are more accurately aligned with your desires.

I'd also like to thank Prof. Kanshukan Rajatnam, the Director for the School of Data Science and Computational Thinking . Despite his busy schedule during the welcoming period, he has provided me with advice on how to be successful in this role and helped me better outline my job description and portfolio purpose.

Finally, I'd like to thank my fellow SRC members. Their commitment and sacrifice astound me daily, and I am learning a great deal from them.

I am so grateful to be in the position I am, and to have the opportunity to make an impact on our community. I leave you with this final quote from our SRC Chairperson, Masilo Silokazi: "I believe a crucial characteristic a leader needs to possess is the desire for servitude".

I look forward to serving you in the second term.

Soli Deo Gloria | Glory to God Alone

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Constitutional Responsibilities

According to the student constitution (Chapt. 4, Section 36 (8) a and b), my constitutional responsibilities are the following:

- 1) SRC Managers must attend at least one (1) SRC meeting per academic term to report back to the SRC regarding their activities
 - a. An SRC Manager must attend an SRC meeting if asked to do so by a written request from the Executive Committee.
 - b. Must provide valid reasoning for their absence at the mandatory meeting.

Portfolio Overview

According to the portfolio job description the purpose of this role is as follows:

- 1) The primary purpose of this role is to gather data and present the analytical insight to the SRC members. It is the manager's duty to consult with the executive committee and the policy officer to help them ask the right questions and refine their problem-definition process to aid them in making informed decisions aligned students regarding the 'policies under renewal' for the current year.
- 2) Secondary purposes include advising and consulting with the general SRC members regarding data collection and problem definition.
- 3) The manager is also expected to aid SRC members and managers; and to act in a supportive manner with other portfolios as necessary and within reason.

Committees/Task Teams

I served on the following Committees and/or Task Teams:

SRC Welcoming Committee – SRC Welcoming Roadshow: This working group was responsible for operations on Stellenbosch campus during the welcoming period. This included but was not limited to SRC introductions to all communities and facilitating these visits during planning and SRC presence at events and functions during Welcoming such as the Dreamwalk, the Dream Fair (Dreamville) and the Societies Fair.

Term I Overview

During my first term in office my main priority was to refine the job description of the Research and Data Analysis manager. Since this was a new portfolio, it was vital to set the expectations of this

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portfolio for myself and the executive committee; this required significant research and reflection. This would ultimately determine the success of this portfolio and provide continuation for future managers. Thus, I defined the role purpose, working relationships, key responsibilities and necessary qualifications.

I also served on the SRC welcoming committee, in particular, the SRC roadshow sub-committee during the welcoming period. I was part of the introductions to the communities (PSOs etc.) in which I acted as a presenter and set up a surveys to gather data from the House Committees and Newcomers to gauge the success of the roadshow.

I also aided the SRC Visibility manager in writing a script, directing and production of SRC welcoming roadshow visibility videos on our social media channels. The videos included a 'Who We Are' set of reels in English, Afrikaans and Xhosa and a series of portfolio explanations from the respective SRC members.

Plans for Next Term

I plan on aiding the SRC policy officer in defining relevant and well-scoped questions for 'policies under renewal'. This main goal will be to understand what amendments are needed by understanding what the students' desires are for these policies. Once this is done, I will need to gather data, analyse it and provide insights for the relevant decisions-makers so they can determine what would be in the students' best interest.

I also plan on aiding the SRC innovation manager in setting up an event for the SRC almanac. This will require adequate planning and communications with external parties. It will also require data gathering from the students to determine what experts (and guests) might be relevant to them and for this innovation portfolio event.