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Students' Representative Council
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Studenteraad



SRC 2024 TERM 3 REPORT

SRC TREASURER-GENERAL- ONGEZWA QIQA TSHAZI

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Ongezwa Qiqqa
Tshazi-SRC
Treasurer-General

Foreword

Dear Maties,

I trust that you are doing well. It brings me joy to write this report to you all. The 2023/2024 SRC term is coming to an end. However, the dawn of a new SRC for the upcoming SRC term is already underway.

I encourage you all to take up space and maximise the opportunities for leadership and being of service to society. It is enriching, not only to those around you, but for personal growth and self-discovery as well.

Thank you for your partnership and unwavering support!

I am wishing all the best as you navigate the second half of the year!

Your TG,

OG.

Constitutional Responsibilities

CHAPTER 4, Section 28 (4) of the Student Constitution provides a broad description of the duties and responsibilities of the SRC Treasurer-General. However, the daily functional duties are not explicitly detailed. Below is an overview of the duties of the SRC Treasurer-General as indicated in the [Stellenbosch University Student Constitution](#)

(4) The Treasurer –

- (a) Is responsible for ensuring that the financial resources of the SRC are used in a transparent, responsible, and sustainable manner.
- (b) Is responsible for formulating policies that ensure the transparent, responsible, and sustainable use of the SRC's financial resources, and ensuring the implementation of such policies after they are approved by the SRC.
- (c) Is responsible for preparing the draft SRC budget for consideration by the SRC Executive Committee.
- (d) Is responsible for providing a financial report at the end of their term.

Portfolio Overview

- 1) Although the SRC Treasurer-General has responsibilities stipulated on the student Constitution, the portfolio in itself is complex. For instance, the SRC Treasurer-General drafts, compiles and upkeepes the SRC budget, however, the final approval and amendments are conducted by the entire SRC Executive Committee.
- 2) Furthermore, the SRC Treasurer-General has a responsibility to ensure that there is transparency and sustainable use of the SRC financial resources.
- 3) Thus, among other things, the SRC treasurer assists all the different portfolios within the SRC with advising on expenditures, and processing transactions, updating SRC internal financial policies, should the need arise, and adhering to the University's financial policies. Therefore, ensuring that all transactions and financial manoeuvres are within the scope of what can be considered as legitimate, institutionally.
- 4) Additionally, besides the official term reports, the SRC Treasurer has a responsibility to conduct regular reports on any financial matters concerning the SRC, with the SRC team and Student Governance, if necessary.

Committees/Task Teams

I serve on the following Committees and or Task Teams:

SRC Executive Committee

The SRC Executive Committee is sanctioned by section 40 of the [Stellenbosch University Student Constitution](#). I serve on the Executive Committee by virtue of being the Treasurer-General of the SRC. Additional duties of the SRC Executive Committee are stipulated in section 41 of the [Stellenbosch University Student Constitution](#), however, the most important role is to administer and manage the day-to-day events concerning the SRC.

The SRC Executive Committee also engages in exclusive activities such as, the appointment of SRC managers, meetings with Student Governance, Division of Student Affairs, and the Stellenbosch University Rectorate.

The Executive engaged in various conversations and activities in term 3. I would classify this as the implementation phase of the term. It is the time when the team was well-adjusted to the roles and the responsibilities were clearer post-registration. The team encountered some important and often challenging matters to deliberate on. These included, but were not limited to, discussions on the reported GBV cases, some losses of our students and how the team can intentionally show support to affected individuals, the stance the team was adopting concerning the Palestine-Israel conflict-these were further discussed at an emergency meeting set-up by the SRC President with the entire SRC team. Matters relating to study spaces and renovations during exam seasons were also discussed and taken to higher management. Furthermore, the implementation of voter ballot education to the broader student population, and nominations for the SRC evaluation panel were tabled.

In addition, considering that this was halfway through the term, the team had to formulate strategies on how to retain the unity within the team. This was crucial to ensure that the team could continue to serve for the best interests of students. Thus, a mid-year reflection conference was tabled under the office of the Vice-president for discussion. An exciting

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highlight for the term was the opportunity to nominate delegates for an invitation to a theatre festival that was extended by the CCMD. Some of our SRC and Drama students attended the event sponsored by the office of the President for transportation costs.

Furthermore, the Executive deliberated on matters that were also pushed forward to Rectorate and the Division of Student Affairs. These included considerations to create surveys to assess the accommodation crises and their impacts on the student body, in collaboration with the office of the Registrar. These recommendations were formulated with cognizance of some of the grievances that were raised by the student population at the Parliamentary sitting. However, one meeting with the Division of Student Affairs and Rectorate was postponed due to unforeseen circumstances. The next meetings will take place upcoming term, term 4.

SUNCOM Advisory Committee

SUNCOM is the commercial services division at Stellenbosch University. I sit on the committee as an SRC and student community representative. An introductory meeting was held during the fourth term of 2023. The second meeting with the committee was held on the 18th of July 2024, a bit later than anticipated. During this meeting, the committee deliberated on reviewing the terms of reference for the committee, and some important updates for approval concerning the functioning of the committee. Regulations for commercialisation were discussed, recommendations were made, and some new initiatives for input were deliberated. During the meeting, delegates from various structures made some recommendations for the evaluation concerning the SUNCOM structure. My main contribution to the meeting was providing advice and recommendations from the student perspective, with aid from concerns the students raised concerning the institution's commercial services. In addition, some factors to consider for upcoming leaders who will sit on the committee.

NSFAS Contingency task team

The NSFAS Contingency task team was established on an urgent basis by the Rectorate in February 2023. The role and purpose of this Committee was, initially, to look at the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) CAP on Residence allowances, which was of R45 000,00 introduced in the beginning of 2023. The committee met on several occasions during the third term. The common themes for discussion were mostly centred around student accommodation and food security for NSFAS students. The common thing that was noted was the prevalence of food insecurity experienced by NSFAS students during the second semester, especially those living in university residences who usually exceed the quota allocated for meals each year. To eradicate the issue, several suggestions were tabled, some of which are still in the process of being implemented. One that is already in action is the free lunch meal option for NSFAS students living in undergraduate residences, who are usually the most affected during the second semester according to previous reports and data collected.

Term 3 Overview

Term 3 as treasurer was interesting to navigate, and at times presented exciting opportunities for growth. There were more events from portfolios and general SRC expenditure which required more planning and structure to ensure all payments and requisitions were completed timeously. My goal for the term was to continue the smooth running of how SRC finances are handled, ensuring that there was clear communication between myself, the team and the various stakeholders we worked with, and that expectations and boundaries were clear.

In terms of the budget I allocated for the treasurer, the goal was to do something that would have value, not only for myself, but for the optimal functioning of the team. Thus, the discretionary R1500 I allocated for the treasurer was utilised for the SRC Executive dinner before the strategic camp/conferencing that was held in May 2024. The reason for the dinner was to reconnect and strengthen the unity of the Executive beyond the confines of the boardroom and meetings. It was a taxing and often stressful term for the team, and to function well and to lead the team, I saw it fitting to have some time out of the office.

Furthuremore, I had indicated on my Term 2 repport that I would provide an espenditure chart on this report. However, this may not be a true reflection of how much each portfolio has utilised. This is because, the team is till hosting events and requisitions are being processed. Thus, upon advise from the team, a full budget balance and expenditure chart will be provided on the final report, when all the events for the 2023/2024 SRC term have been concluded to provide a true reflectiojn of much the SRC actually utilised. Additionally, I aim to apply to have an official cost-centre for Research and Data, however, there has been no expenditure made by the cost centre. Therefore, during the handover period, a recommendation can be made to the new SRC to consider a way forward for the cost centre, whether they would like to retain it or continue using the general cost centre should there be finances needed for research. I will however, include the necessary steps to take if one is gto apply for a cost centre.

Plans for Next Term

My plan for the term is simply a smoother and intentional transition out of office. I aim to construct and plan an extensive and intentional handover for the upcoming treasurer. I plan to draft a "treasurer guide" which can be utilised by upcoming financial officers/managers, detailing the necessary information to know when one steps into the role, and how to navigate the space as a Stellenbosch University SRC treasurer. The SRC President and I plan to collaborate with the incoming SRC for the fundraising gala dinner we have planned for this year. The hope is that this gala dinner or another event of it kind can be an initiative that will be sustainable and implemented by more SRCs to come.

Overall, the plan is to do the best I can in my capacity, enjoy the remainder of my time in the office, be available for the team and upcoming SRC where I can, continue building networks and community, and to have fun with the role!

Should you have any enquiries regarding the portfolio, you are welcome to email src treasurer@sun.ac.za.

-Have a wonderful term. Remember to maximise opportunities for growth and development and take a chance on leadership and serving your communities and societies. If it does not work out the first time, it could simply be a "not yet" or opportunity for redirection! May God bless you all

-With love: Your TG, OG-