



STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL
IBHUNGA ELIMELE ABAFUNDI
STUDENTERAAD



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100
1918 - 2018

SRC 2021/22 TERM REPORT I CHAIRPERSON

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Students' Representative Council
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Constitutional Responsibilities

The SU Student Constitution sets out the core functions of the SRC in section 27 and they include –

1. To act in the best interest of the students and to actively promote students' rights under CHAPTER 2.
2. To represent students at –
 - a. The University Council.
 - b. The Senate.
 - c. The Institutional Forum.
 - d. Other committees, structures, and functionaries of the University.
 - e. National and international student structures.
3. To evaluate the University policy and give input in the formulation thereof.
4. To formulate and maintain policy to ensure that the SRC performs its functions and duties effectively.
5. To facilitate projects and initiatives to the benefit of students.
6. To inform students continuously, and obtain feedback, about its activities.

Section 28 goes on to further the responsibilities of the Chairperson specifically as follows:

- a) Serve as the Chairperson at meetings of the SRC and the SRC Executive Committee.
- b) Act as spokesperson for the SRC, in consultation with the Communications Officer.
- c) Is responsible for the finances of the SRC alongside the SRC Executive Committee.
- d) Ensures that the SRC fulfils its mandate.
- e) Is responsible for oversight over the activities of the SRC.

Lastly, as a member of the SRC Executive Committee, the duties and powers outlined in section 41 are also applicable to the Chairperson and they are as follows:

1. The Executive Committee has the duty and power to –
 - a. Set the agenda for SRC meetings.
 - b. Manage the day-to-day matters for the SRC.
 - i. Excluding any power or duty granted to the SRC by this Constitution.
 - c. Fulfil any duty that the SRC delegates to it.
 - d. Fulfil any other function that this Constitution assigns to it.
2. The Executive Committee, subject to s41(3), also has the duty and power to –
 - a. Compile and amend thereafter, the SRC budget.
 - b. Make important decisions in urgent cases where it is not practically feasible to convene the SRC.
 - i. The SRC must be immediately notified of decisions in terms of s41(2)(b); and
 - ii. Such decisions must be tabled at the next possible SRC Meeting for final determination.
 - c. decide on the portfolio allocation of the SRC, excluding the compulsory portfolios.

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- d. Appoints the Election Commissioners in terms of s18(6).
3. Decisions taken by the Executive Committee in terms of s41(2) will be in full effect unless set aside by the SRC at a later meeting through the process outlined in s42(3).

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Portfolio Overview

The Chairperson portfolio is responsible for engaging with multiple stakeholders internally and externally.

The portfolio of chairperson is responsible to bring a group of diverse leaders together and channel their energy and skills to successfully achieve the mandates of the SRC. Chairperson is responsible for ensuring that words become actions and support members where possible to ensure execution. The Chairperson acts as custodian of the Student Constitution. The chairperson acts as spokesperson for the SRC and the students the SRC represents.

The Chairperson is a direct line of contact and information for staff and management in the university. Although the Chairperson is the students' representative, the Chairperson is also a representative of the larger Stellenbosch University. The Chairperson's mandate is to ensure that the needs of students are placed first in the university and works in collaboration with different stakeholders such as SU Staff, the municipality, other universities in South Africa and around the world.

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Committees/Task Teams

Institutional Audit Self-Evaluation Committee

According to the Manual for Institutional Audits 2021 by the Council on Higher Education s2(2.1):

Institutional audits are used to determine the extent of an institution's capability to use integrated quality management systems and processes to improve the quality of its learning and teaching, its research and the institution's integrated engagement with the community. Audits also consider how such quality management systems enhance the likelihood of student success. "Student success" is defined in the *Framework* as follows:

"or the individual student, the attainment of graduate attributes that are personally, professionally, and socially valuable; and for the institution, students' academic persistence; academic results that focus on equity of success in terms of race, gender, and disability, as well as a focus on minimum time to completion, and students progressing successfully to postgraduate studies, or into employment or economic activity."

The Self-Evaluation Committee is the committee that will be overseeing SU's institutional audit and ultimately present the report to CHE.

What is relevant is that there will be consultations on the final self-evaluation report that is to be presented to CHE. The first round of consultation with the student body will happen after Senate's first meeting in March following the same structure as the Risk Assessment consultation where all student leaders (house committee, faculty committee, and society execs) will be invited.

Institutional Committee for Business Continuity (ICBC)

The Rectorate decided to convene an extended version of the University's usual Contingency Committee structure to ensure swift execution of decisions by creating an overarching Institutional Committee for Business Continuity (ICBC), the leadership of which was delegated to the Chief Operating Officer, Prof Stan du Plessis. The ICBC was convened to oversee and synthesise input from 11 subcommittees, each focusing on key facets of the University's activities affected by the pandemic.

There is not much to report on with regards to the ICBC meetings as all decisions taken at meetings are shared in a communique to the SU community.



LSAL 2022 Project Team

LSAL is the Leadership Summit for Aspiring Leaders hosted by the Centre for Student Leadership, Experiential Education and Citizenship (CSLEEC). The first summit was hosted in September 2021, with the focus of growing the leadership pipeline and creating a platform that develops the leadership skills of aspiring student leaders. The second summit will be in 2022, and the project team has been assembled to conceptualise, design, and plan the summit.

We had one meeting for the LSAL project where we were given an outline on the project and what the project team is envisioned to do for the 2022 summit. The meeting concluded with a decision to set a meeting for a brainstorming session where we can go into further detail and delegate duties for the LSAL plans.

Risk Assessment Forum

The Risk Assessment Forum was required to do a risk assessment, considering the operational requirements of Stellenbosch University (SU). The outcome of this Risk Assessment, together with other relevant factors, would provide the basis for management to determine SU's need for a vaccination policy or rule; drafting a vaccination rule or policy was not included in the mandate of the Forum.

The Forum met quite a lot during my term as the report had to be presented to the Rectorate and Council at its last meeting in December. There was a long period of internal consultation where I facilitated the consultation with student leaders, with the assistance of Vhudi Ravhutsi, TSRC Chairperson.

Senior Appointments Committee

The Senior Appointments Committee is a committee established under the approval of SU's Council and has its powers delegated to it by Council. It has the final authority and oversight regarding the appointment of senior staff. The SAC reports its decision to Council via the Registrar's Office.

The content discussed in this meeting is confidential.

South Africa Sweden University Forum Student Network (SASUF) (and Board)

SASUF transformative project uniting 38 universities from across Sweden and South Africa. It aims to bring together leading researchers, teachers, students, university leaders and other stakeholders, to develop joint solutions to the challenges posed by the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2030. The Student Network is responsible for the engagements and relationships between the students and student leaders, with the Board overseeing these interactions.

The Student Network has been incredibly busy, our meetings have mainly been introducing new members and planning the year. There have been discussions around the annual summit taking place online, virtual coffee breaks (which are essentially socials), and food gardens. It has mostly been planning for the year ahead.



Stellenbosch University Council

The University's Council governs the University in accordance with the Constitution, the Act, and the Statute and its rules. It has a general oversight responsibility in respect of academic and operational matters. The details of the powers, responsibilities and functions of Council can be found in the SU Statute Ch2(10).

There is not much to report on with regards to the Council meetings as all decisions taken at meetings are shared in a communique to the SU community.

Transformation Policy Task Team

The mandate of the Transformation Policy Task Team is to guide and support the Head of Transformation towards ensuring that the SU Transformation Policy is in line with the SU Vision 2040 and the Strategic Framework. The TPTT would also ensure that the Transformation Policy does not only provide a framework for consistent decision making and action but is also aligned to best practice. The outcomes expected from the task team include the finalisation of the draft policy documents and ensuring that these are broadly consulted on within the institution. The findings made by the task team will be integrated into the policy document as the process unfolds. The task team does not have a mandate to recommend on any institutional policy related matters. The task team will however ensure that the relevant institutional structures do make recommendations for approval once the task team has completed the final draft. The task team is also responsible for defining the phases of the project.

We started off with a brainstorming and team building session. This essentially assisted us in laying the foundation for the policy and understanding where we want to go with it as a team. Our latest meeting was in January which delegated roles to each of the task team members.

Umoja African Student Leaders Network

The Umoja Summit was the envisioned launch of the ASLN Programme which aimed to assist in bringing together and uniting African student leaders in a unified forum.

Our first and only meeting in the term was in introduction to the Network and gave background to the summit.



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Term Overview

Outside of supporting my team and attending the meetings as outlined above, my first term consisted mainly of working with Philip, the Vice Chair, to lay foundations for the team. We successfully planned and executed a strategic planning weekend, planning camp, and Philip planned and I facilitated a pre-registration workshop. There was a lot of document writing and sharing but mostly just ensuring that the team felt ready and equipped for the term ahead.

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Plans for next term

My next consists mostly of continuing to attend my meetings and communicating the outcomes of the meetings to the rest of the SRC. There are two projects that I would like to start:

1. A Seat at the Table – bi-monthly roundtable discussions on topics relevant to students. Anyone would be able to attend, and if possible, it would be streamed.
2. Dinner with the SRC – inviting the first-years committees of all the residences and PSOs for a dinner with the SRC, to interact with us, get advice, but mostly just for us to celebrate their achievement.