



STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL
IBHUNGA ELIMELE ABAFUNDI
STUDENTERAAD



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100
1918 - 2018

SRC 2021/22 TERMREPORT I SOCIAL IMPACT

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Students' Representative Council
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PRECIOUS NHAMO – SOCIAL IMPACT – PNHAMO@SUN.AC.ZA

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Constitutional Responsibilities

The social impact portfolio thus far has no constitutionally prescribed responsibilities. However, I am bound by duties allocated to me by the general SRC which are:

Social Impact

- a) Social impact refers to making impact on persons externally from registered students
- b) Liaising with MGD on Student projects
- c) Incentivising/improving student attendance for social impact projects
- d) Organising SRC-specific social impact projects
- e) Coordinating with ex-officio student structures on their social impact projects

As a duly elected SRC member, my constitutional responsibilities can be split between the duties imposed on me as an SRC member, duties directly assigned to me by the Executive committee and my portfolio specific duties. This report will deal with all these capacities I served in. As an SRC Member, sections 27 and 32 impose the prevalent duties. Accordingly, I must always act in the best interest of students and actively promote their constitutionally provided rights. Other specific duties include to represent students on institutional committees, to evaluate and give input on institutional policies, to facilitate projects to the benefit of students. Section 32 further obligates me to submit a termly report of all my activities during the academic term to the Secretary. Finally, according to section 44 I must attend an SRC meeting every week during the academic term.

I have diligently fulfilled my role in such regards. As per my job requirements I have attended and completed all my weekly office duties. I have also attended all my meetings and trainings except the ones I had academic conflicting schedules. I have failed in submitting my report 48 hours after it was due.



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Portfolio Overview

The Social Impact portfolio of the SRC focusses on positively impacting the lives of persons outside of Stellenbosch University. The portfolio organises SRC social impact projects, coordinates ex officio structures' social impact projects, as well as liaises with MGD on existing student initiatives. Improving student attendance at these projects is a further facet of this role.

For 2022 our mission is working towards achieving sustainable quality education and alleviating hunger through long term meaningful strategic partnerships with our local communities. Through our SRC vision 2022 and our mandates we are specifically targeting 4 SDGs that can fit into each other which are Quality Education, Zero Hunger, Good Health and Well-being and Partnerships to achieve the goal (2,3,4, &17).

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Committees/Task Teams

Quality Committee (QC)

The QC was established in 1993 to ensure all departments in this institution are following the appropriate procedure for assessing the quality of their 'services.' This committee does not itself assess the quality but assists the departments to set their own criteria and reviews their internal procedures. The QC aims to assess all departments over a 5-year cycle. Departments include all faculties and administrative departments of the Institution. The QC is chaired by the Vice-rector Learning and Teaching and the secretary is the senior adviser of the Academic Planning and Quality Assurance division. The SRC holds 2 seats on this committee. During the QC meeting for the first term held on 22 November 2021 at 10:30 -11:30 we welcomed new members and passed farewell to retiring members. The updated and approved mandate was availed to the committee – the following have since then been approved as the mandates of this committee:

- a) Makes recommendations to the Executive Committee of Senate for attention, discussion and or further action.
- b) Has the powers of disposal to accept and approve self-evaluation and peer review reports and accept or refer-back improvement plans and follow-up reports.
- c) Provides institutional guidance and advice on quality assurance matters by identifying and sharing examples of good practice.
- d) Monitors the implementation of the Policy for Quality Assurance and Enhancement

At this meeting, we didn't table any self-evaluation or peer review reports by departments or professional academic and administrative support service (PASS) environments, but rather focused our discussion on adapted themes and criteria for such evaluations, and the progress we are currently making with the institutional audit.

Officer Quality Assurance Contacts:

Andre Muller [-aemuller@sun.ac.za](mailto:aemuller@sun.ac.za)

Allison Mlitwa [-amlitwa@sun.ac.za](mailto:amlitwa@sun.ac.za)

Stellenbosch University Co-Curricular Support Fund (SUCSF)/USKOF

USKOF was founded in 2011 after assessment were done and the need was seen. Several departments and divisions within the university makes funds available to support co-curricular development of students and these funds are pooled and made available to the committee and utilized for the following reasons:

- a) Students' attendance of and participation in national and international conferences falling outside the formal academic offering.
- b) Support for student initiatives on campus additional to the day-to-day activities of student structures for which there are existing budgets; and
- c) Support for Students' Representative Council's (SRC) initiatives linked to the above-mentioned, but also initiatives related to national and international co-curricular activities that are preferably not annual or repetitive events.

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The application and utilisation of the funds by students are assessed by reporting and similar ways of feedback. The SRC has 2 seats on this committee and aid in decision make and final approval of applicants.

SUCSF/USKOF is administered by the Division Student Affairs. Its operations are subject to institutional and covid regulations.

In our second meeting in January 2022 –

We discussed the risks associated with funding students that are not yet fully registered as they are technically not recognized as students yet. However, it was agreed that if a student hasn't or isn't graduating yet they can still be considered as we hope they will continue with their studies. We also deliberated on opening international travel opportunity on the condition that students take responsibility to fully equip themselves with any regulation changes e.g., covid 19, travel restrictions and insurance and costs of PCR tests and vaccination. SRC was mandated together with team members to promote conferences and events within Africa and online courses. We agreed on not preventing future funding if the student chooses to attend an online event now and in person later

Next meeting: 23 February 2022

Social Impact Committee

The committee is administered by the division of social impact and chaired by the VR for Social Impact, Transformation & Personnel.

The DSI through its committees and relevant structures offers support in the following ways:

- Engaged Learning & Teaching support (contact [Ernestine Meyer-Adams](#))
- Engaged Citizenship (contact [Renee Hector-Kannemeyer](#))
- Engaged Research Support & Engaged Partnerships (contact [Mawethu Nyakatya](#))
- Volunteerism (contact [Michelle Pietersen](#): SU campus and Tygerberg campus)
- Social Impact Knowledge Platform (contact [Chevaan Peters](#))
- General, Building & Venue Enquiries (contact [Jubelian Korkie](#)) - 021 808 3712
- Financial Enquiries (contact [Fredelene Nefdt](#))
- Head of the Division (contact [Ernestine Meyer-Adams](#))

It mainly focuses on staff social impact initiatives. It comprises of all staff departmental and campuses social impact representatives i.e., 10 Faculties ,13 other departmental representatives and 2 students one from TSR and one from SRC.

In our first meeting in February 2022 – 7 February -14:00 -16:00

A decision was made following different consultations to finally dissolve the NPO -MGD and integrate its structures into the Division of Social Impact. Members of the committee agreed to deliberate on whether students should be included on the Social Impact Funding Committee or not. There will be 3 workshops in February on reimagining social impact taking into consideration the merger and 4 Meetings to finalize the dissolution.

Here is all the documentation of interest:

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MGD Committee

This is the university's registered NPO governing board that aided with organizing and planning social impact initiatives on campus. The committee help students plan for the welcoming social impact morning and provide funding for the initiatives, therefore. Following recent deliberations, it will be dissolved and reintegrated into DSI. Hence the most important question -Rethinking the structures and where students fit in.

There are 4 meetings – 1 in February, 1 in March 1 in April and the last in July to finalize the dissolution and integration of the governing board into DSI

Social Impact Subcommittee

There are 5 students that constitute the executive of our social impact subcommittee. However, due to the events & volunteer orientated nature of the portfolio we will expand as we see the need. The subcommittee will have a formal training on volunteer coordination and how to progress from now on in the first week of class i.e., the week of 14th February. The SRC boardroom will be utilized, and time is yet to be confirmed. Meetings are scheduled regularly for the first few months to get our year plan set out. Going forward we can have fortnightly meetings otherwise everything will be communicated via the group

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Term Overview

SRC Story Telling

This was our first big project which wanted the SRC members to tell their personal stories as we believed it is a powerful tool in educating others about who we are and marketing our brand the way we want. All members were requested to submit their stories between 30 November and 20 January with a few guidelines stated. We were set for publication through SUN Media by 01 February. However, the project through the SRC wasn't successful as only 1 member submitted their story.

To rectify the mistake, we partnered with a UK based education start-up SHASHA network in January and consent was given that we may use their publication of the personal stories on the condition that we do not infringe their brand in any way. Here is an online version of the publication -still awaiting release of e-copies with SRC logo on it : <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/my-drive>

Docuseries

We started recording sessions for our docuseries with the first being filmed in January in collaborating with our Marketing portfolio. This is an ongoing project that will continue until the end of our term.

UNASA – Siyafunda

To promote quality education, we got into a partnership to fund all UNASA's transportation initiatives from January – April. We approved to transfer 1000 to their cost centre. Other proposals were directed to us but haven't been approved yet

MGD Social Impact Funding Agreement

I got into an agreement with MGD for SRC's Social Impact portfolio to have a seat on the student funding committee. So, all students run social impact initiatives in need of funding can formally apply through the SRC which will through MGD approve the funds. However, I am unsure how such partnerships will work after the dissolution and merger with DSI has been finalized.

BHSU – Bringing home to Stellenbosch University

I partnered with CSCD to host a welcoming event for international students however, we had to move the dates to March and work with SUI as most of the international students are currently struggling with visas and results. I engaged with Pieter Kloppers (Director: CSC) and Carmien from International office to reach such conclusions.



Mastercard Foundation Scholarship Program

Considering the financial struggles faced by our international students I raised issues with Robert Kotze on being partners of the foundation. Some notes:

- The Foundation invites universities to submit a proposal for a MasterCard Foundation programme at a specific university.
- SU submitted a proposal 5 years ago. Mr Kotze wrote the proposal at the request of the Rector involving leadership training etc. It was unfortunately not successful.
- Since then, the Development and Alumni Relations Division has been in regular contact with the Foundation to find an opportunity for funding to SU.

From here I will be engaging with Ms Karen Bruns for more feedback on SU's engagement with the MasterCard Foundation and the way forward.

Social Impact Morning – Residence Committees

I was invited to write a piece and present on it to all the student communities on enabling students to see Stellenbosch University's commitment to social impact as an institutional strategic priority

Donations

Towards the year end we collected some donations -from clothes, textbooks, and other student useful equipment. Books will be donated to students once classes start; clothes will be given to shelters or NPO and all the other equipment will be distributed accordingly.

Alumni Office

Started conversations with the alumni office on how best we can create one social impact for all, and we look forward to partnering in some if not all their initiatives.

Overall, I spent my first term trying to bring all relevant parties together for collective action. I was also part of the campus operations work stream during registration.



Budget Usage

<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount budgeted</u>	<u>Amount utilised</u>	<u>Amount available</u>
UNASA	R1000	R1000	R0

Been accounted for and approved just awaiting final exchange of cost centres.



Plans for next term

1. Hand over the portfolio to the new chair of Social Impact
2. Based on my own discretion of the current issues being discussed on the SIC, I will continue serving in the committee. There have been quite a few complaints about the lack of stability and inconsistency in this portfolio from the students' side. As the MGD is currently under the process of being dissolved and their governing board reintegrated into DSI – crucial decisions need to be made. Student input is of utmost importance. As an elected member, I suggest I continue serving on the committee. Based on the decision to continue, the following events will take place in February:
 - a. Workshop 1: Monday, 21 February 2022: Management perspective: A view from those charged with institutional leadership in respect of Social Impact (DVC, SD and Director) - Internal focus: A view from the support services
 - b. Workshop 2: Wednesday, 23 February 2022 -Internal focus: A view from the faculties (academics / SIC) - External focus: A view from societal partners (External societal partners, MGD Governing Board and USKOR Trust)
 - c. Workshop 3: Thursday, 24 February 2022- Facilitated session: Outlining the reimagined Social Impact at Stellenbosch University (including strategy and structure) based on inputs provided (DVC, SD, Director, DSI and MGD Staff)
3. To support the integration of MGD and be part of the decision makers in the finalization of the dissolution I will attend 4 meeting
4. Using the 4-4-5 strategy we will start rolling out and delivering our mentor session and education program to our partner organizations which are currently 4 now -The Ark School, Kayamandi High School, and 2 listed children's homes. Each of the mentioned partner will be visited once a term and 4 times a year. The volunteer session being coordinated on the 19th of February, 26 February, 5 March & 12 March.
5. All our events will be filmed with consent from participants as we intend to make a docuseries at the end of our term marketing the SRC Brand to the world – I have already shot an introductory video to date.
6. Subcommittee Strategic Weekend: Training for the Subcommittee on how to facilitate and interact with external people and volunteers.