



Stellenbosch

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SRC

Students' Representative Council
Ibhunga elimele abaFundi
Studenteraad



SRC TERM 2 REPORT

AAC CHAIRPERSON



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Foreword

Dear Maties,

And just like that, we've done it, we've survived term one! It's been busy! It is my hope that the student body has found its feet in the Stellenbosch Community. As I began my final year, I spent my first day of the term thinking back on the wonderful times I shared with our newcomers, from which I gained so much hope. The '23 newcomers are diverse, vibrant, excited, and passionate. What inspiring people! But, this also made me realise that I thought I'd be happier to be seeing the start of this exciting academic year. I thought I'd be over the moon to start celebrating the lasts. But instead, I found myself realizing just how little is left and how important enjoying it all is. I caught myself thinking of where we will all be in just a year from now. Madness. Chaos ensued in my brain. Absolutely nothing will be the same. And that's scary! But my word, that's also so magical. If anything, the start of this term reminded me that this is not to be taken for granted. It also reminded me that higher education is a privilege that we must protect and that we must always strive to renew. And mostly, that we do so in **community**. That we cannot do so by ourselves. That we must come together for. The start of this term taught me that this space can transform and that this is a place for all.

It is my hope that we can take the lessons learned during the first term to build upwards in term two.

"One of the marvelous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way we couldn't as individuals." – Jean Vanier

All the best!
Emma x

Constitutional Responsibilities

As per the SU statute

Definitions 68. In this Statute, unless the context indicates otherwise —

“Academic Affairs Council” means a body established by the SRC to promote academic matters on behalf of students;

As per the SRC constitution

CHAPTER 4: THE STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Part 4.1: General

25. Composition of the Students' Representative Council

The Students' Representative Council consists of the following members:

- (1) Nine (9) members are elected by the students in terms of the provisions of CHAPTER 3 of this Constitution.
- (2) The Chairperson of the Academic Affairs Council.

As per the AAC Constitution

Chapter 3: Duties and Functioning of the Academic Affairs Council

(8) Duties and Functions

- 1) The Chairperson of the Academic Affairs Council –
 - (a) Facilitating Academic Affairs Council meetings, in consultation with the SecretaryGeneral;
 - i) All official correspondence to and from the Academic Affairs Council;
 - ii) Passing on the minutes to the Students' Representative Council Chairperson;
 - iii) Compiling the annual report of the Academic Affairs Council.

(b) Is responsible for representing the Academic Affairs Council, either in their own capacity or by virtue of a representative if the Chairperson is unavailable, on the following committees:

- iv) Timetable Committee of the Academic Planning Committee;
- v) Academic Planning Committee of Senate;
- vi) Committee of Learning and Teaching;
- vii) Any other institutional committee which stipulates that the Chairperson of the Academic Affairs Council must act as a representative on said committee, and;

In fulfilling the duties in section 8(1)(b)(i)-(iv), the Chairperson is required to obtain input from the Academic Affairs Council and report back to the Academic Affairs Council.

- (c) Must meet with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Learning and Teaching on a monthly basis.
- (d) Must oversee the finances of the Academic Affairs Council, in consultation with the Treasurer.
- (e) Is an *ex-officio* member of the Students' Representative Council and, as such, is responsible for keeping the Students' Representative Council apprised of activities of the Academic Affairs Council.
- (f) Must write and submit a satisfactory term report.
- (g) Is responsible for convening special or emergency meetings where necessary.
- (h) During their term of office, may not be a member of a Faculty Student Committee or of the Tygerberg Academic Affairs Council.
- (i) Facilitates the discussion and addressing of academic and other matters of communal interest that fall within the sphere of academia at Stellenbosch University and empowers the members of the respective Faculty Student Committees, and the members of the Tygerberg Academic Affairs Council, to represent and inform students effectively.

Portfolio Overview

General-elect

As per the preamble of the Academic Affairs Council constitution, the Academic Affairs Council of Stellenbosch University commits to actively promoting the rights of students as contained in Chapter 2 of the Student Constitution, to quality education, academic support, and transparent and justifiable assessment procedures. Further, the Academic Affairs Council strives to protect and further the academic interests of all students, by promoting a transformative teaching and learning experience, enabling academic success, and developing graduate attributes, with the aim of establishing a thriving academic project which facilitates student retention. We dedicate ourselves to achieving this mandate, whilst setting an example of Professional conduct in the pursuit of academic excellence for all students.

As per section 8 of the Academic Affairs Council Constitution, the Chairperson of the Academic Affairs Council is responsible for the following administrative arrangements, including,

- (i) Facilitating Academic Affairs Council meetings, in consultation with the Secretary-General;
- (ii) All official correspondence to and from the Academic Affairs Council;
- (iii) Passing on the minutes to the Students' Representative Council Chairperson;
- (iv) Compiling the annual report of the Academic Affairs Council.

SRC executive

The AAC Chairperson is an ex officio member of the SRC and thus, as per section 30 of the Student Constitution, an ex officio member of the SRC –

- (1) May, in addition to their ex officio position, only accept one other portfolio on whether that portfolio is compulsory or not.

- (2) May not accept any other portfolios if they serve on the Executive Committee of the SRC.

The Executive meets on a weekly basis and has scheduled meetings with DSAF and Rectorate. Accurate detail hereof can be provided by the SRC Secretary-General, Miss Phiwokule Qabaka.

Committees/Task Teams

During my second term of office, I sat on the Academic Planning Committee, Committee of Learning and Teaching, Welcoming Planning Committee, Vice-Deans Forum, Co-Curricula Recognition Committee, and Quality Committee.

I also attended an in-person workshop for the Graduate Attributes Framework and terminology. I was also invited to the Transformation Workshop with Student Leaders and the Transformation Dialogue with Student Leaders, which I, unfortunately, missed due to ill health. I worked alongside Professor Deresh Ramjugernath, Mr. Steven Burgess, Ms. Farah Fredericks, Professor Richard Stevens, and Ms. Maretha Joyce on a submission for the Committee of Teaching and Learning on advisory for the rounding of marks. Further, I was also a member of the Academic Planning Committee's task team for funding of 4-year degree programmes at SU, chaired by item Professor S. Moyo (DVC: Research, Innovation and Postgraduate Studies.) Furthermore, I also attended the Experiential Educator Onboarding and SUNLearn Training as well as the Learning and Teaching/SU Language Policy Presentation to Student Leaders. The student court hosted numerous student leaderships structures at their Constitutional workshop, which is of great value to the AAC as we work towards the review and subsequent amendment of various Faculty Student Committees' constitutions.

Academic Planning Committee

This committee is a standing committee of Senate that reports to the Executive Committee of Senate (EC(S)) chaired by Professor Deresh Ramjugernath. Its primary concern is recommending decisions around academic planning to the EC(S) and Senate. It primarily focuses on topics such as new research centres, programme changes, and so forth.

Date: **16 February 2023**

(1) Programme Advisory Committee

- (2) Appointment of a Senate Representative on the Committee for Bursaries and Loans (CBL)
- (3) Annual adoption of assessment rules
- (4) Proposed rules for Conversion from Master's to Doctorate and Reversion to the Master's degree
- (5) Abstracts in Afrikaans
- (6) Recommendations of subcommittee re non credit-bearing academic offerings
- (7) Request for name change from the Department of Process Engineering to the Department of Chemical Engineering
- (8) Review of the Regulation for internal and external moderation and the processing of results

Committee of Learning and Teaching

The Committee for Learning and Teaching (CLT) is chaired by Professor Deresh Ramjugernath and forms an integral part of the Learning and Teaching responsibility centre. It comprises all the vice-deans: learning and teaching, of each faculty.

Date: **13 April 2023**

- (1) Review of SU Student Feedback Practice
- (2) Review of the Regulation for internal and external moderation and the Processing of results
- (3) Revision of Teaching and Learning Policy
- (4) Task Team for the Promotion and Recognition of Teaching
- (5) Strategy for Teaching and Learning 2017 – 2021 (Graduate Attributes)
- (6) Student Success Rates
- (7) Longitudinal Access to SUNLearn
- (8) Revision of the Regulation for the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT) (2017)
- (9) Regulation for the Committee for Learning and Teaching (2017)
- (10) SUNStudent Project

(11) MCQ Scanner

(12) Recording of Lectures

(13) Use of terminology in the SU Calendar (Part 1) and Implementation of Assessment Policy Rules

(14) Academic Renewal (Standing item)

1. Revision of Module Guidelines
2. Learning Materials Policy (rescind)
3. Transformation KPA's
 - a. Assessment
 - b. Hybrid Learning
 - c. Student Success
 - d. Programme Renewal

(15) Proposal for rounding off of FMs in SUNStudent

(16) Student Concessions (limited to concessions recommended by the Disability Unit)

Welcoming Programme Committee

This committee is chaired by Mr. Pieter Kloppers and meets to unpack the Welcoming Template and the logistics thereof, as well as any reflection post de facto.

This committee met on:

23 February 2023

Vice-Deans Forum

The Vice-Deans Forum is chaired by Professor Deresh Ramjugernath and forms an integral part of the Learning and Teaching responsibility centre. It comprises all the vice-deans: learning and teaching, of each faculty.

Date: **13 April 2023**

- (1) Transformation KPAs for academic renewal as game changer

(2) Anonymity of question papers

Quality Committee

The Quality Committee is responsible for reviewing and auditing every department within the institution towards a superlative degree of quality. Ultimately, the Quality Committee may recommend adjustments to each department, and request feedback on these adjustments by a prescribed date.

Date: **14 March 2023**

1. Peer Review Reports
 - 1.1. Department of English
 - 1.2. Department of African Languages
 - 1.3. Technology Transfer Office
 - 1.4. Copyright, Trade Marks and Short Courses Division
 - 1.5. School for Human Resources development
2. Two-year follow up reports
 - 2.1. School of Public Leadership
3. Self-Evaluation
 - 3.1. Stellenbosch University International

Co-Curricula Recognition

The Co-curriculum Recognition Committee (CRC) accredits co-curricular activities and programmes at the institution.

Date: **23 March 2023**

1. Recognition of Renewal Applications towards Co-curriculum Transcript Recognition To consider 5 recognition renewal application presented to the CRC for formal recognition on the academic transcript.
 - 1.1. Activating Engaged Citizenship
 - 1.2. Juridical Society Student Representative Committee

- 1.3. SRC Executive Leadership Training
- 1.4. Student Court
- 1.5. Tygerberg Postgraduate Student Leadership Initiative

DSAf Self-Evaluation and Reflection Committee

As per the Quality Committee, each division must go through a self-evaluation. The Division for Student Affairs is beginning theirs and

Date: **3 April 2023**

1. Self-Evaluation Criteria
2. Self-Evaluation Report
3. Nominations of external Peer-Review panel
4. Briefing meetings to be held with Student Leaders and DSAf Staff
5. Survey to students – feedback on DSAf
6. Interview panels for the Site Visit in September 2023

Term I Overview

AAC Executive

Meetings

Dates: **16 February 2023**
28 February 2023
14 March 2023
21 March 2023

It must be noted that as per section 10(2)(a)(i), I exercised the permissible chairperson discretion to wave a meeting on the condition of the academic wellbeing of members. Furthermore, it must be noted that while student leadership is fundamental to the campus at large, the wellbeing of any AAC member is of paramount importance and therefore will always be prioritised.

Finances

The AAC's expenditure rested largely on its' subsidy from the SRC, which was only transferred towards the end of Term 1 of 2023. Thus, the AAC's biggest expenditure for this term was the purchase of a blazer for the Vice-chairperson, which is yet to be received from the Maties Shop, despite the process being initiated in 2022, due to load-shedding delays s communicated by the responsible staff member.

Member of the term

This is an initiative I've been passionate about since I began my term of office as it is a way to recognise service. The chosen member will receive a certificate and is praised for their work. The first recipient from the executive was Miss Ila Alberts, for her exemplar leadership, dedication and support.

AAC

Meetings

Dates: **21 February 2023**
14 March 2023
21 March 2023

It must be noted that as per section 10(2)(a)(i), I exercised the permissible chairperson discretion to wave a meeting on the condition of the academic wellbeing of members. Furthermore, it must be noted that while student leadership is fundamental to campus at large, the wellbeing of any AAC member is of paramount importance and therefore will always be prioritised.

Members

As per section 7(1)-(2) of the Academic Affairs Council constitution, the AAC comprises of 25 members. These members are either Executive members and/or the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the relevant Faculty Student Committee or Tygerberg Academic Affairs Council, unless the structure in question provides otherwise.

The members are as follows:

1. Ila Alberts
2. Zöe-Grace Bennett
3. Celia Britz
4. Kyle Duvenhage
5. Siphe Giba
6. Chloë-Mae Laubscher
7. Tshogofatso Matlala
8. Ané Murrey
9. Asanda Mkhize
10. Humbulani Gilbert Ndou

11. Siviwe Ntshololo
12. Ernst Pieterse
13. Libonge Potelwa
14. Risuna Risimati
15. Reece Roberts
16. Stefan Rossouw
17. Kayla Ruiters
18. Rushay Shiba
19. Norshya Sonjani
20. Emma Bowers Swart
21. Matt Tate
22. Valeriia van der Westhuizen
23. Elzette van Schalkwyk
24. Kay Vanwolleghe

Herein, the resignation of Lindokuhle Nkume from the Theology Faculty Student Committee must be noted. An election for the Theology Faculty Student Committee was conducted and a new AAC member can be expected in the second academic term of 2023.

Task Teams

By definition, task teams are group of people joined to accomplish a task or to be engaged in collective action. Within the context of the AAC the task teams are created to unpack and address issues that our communities face, with the intent of finding a solution.

As per section 24 of the Academic Affairs Council constitution, the AAC has created the following 5 task teams to unpack issues within their specific scope on a continuous basis. These task teams are led by members of the Executive and are accountable to the AAC at large,

1. Branding led by Kyle Duvenhage
2. International and Post-Graduate Students by Ila Alberts

3. Academic Accessibility by Ernst Pieterse
4. HEMIS by Elzette van Schalkwyk
5. Safety by Ané Murray

The functionality of the aforementioned task teams has begun and reflection on progress will be unpacked during the second academic term of 2023.

Cluster guardians

The introduction of AAC Cluster Guardians came about in efforts to empower the Student Communities with awareness of the AAC's role and thus it is the vision to introduce AAC Cluster Guardians. The respective guardians will each be the go-to person should any community or person from the respective cluster need guidance on matters relating to the function of the AAC.

The appointment of these roles was based on a volunteer system from members of the AAC and are as follows:

1. AmaMaties - Asanda Mkhize
2. Victoria - Elzette van Schalkwyk
3. Wimbledon - Risuna Risimati
4. Validus - Emma Bowers Swart
5. Rubix - Zöe-Grace Bennett
6. Vicmeyer - Ila Alberts

It must be noted that SLS and TygerMaties will have an ad hoc guardian, based on SLS having representation within other clusters and TygerMaties having the TAAC respectively,

Readmission

The way forward for the Readmission feedback and review was amended, so as to include a data-collection process, and thus, this data will be taken into account so that the most appropriate feedback can be taken to the Deputy-Registrar.

Member of the term

This is an initiative I've been passionate about since I began my term of office as it is a way to recognise service. The chosen member will receive a certificate and is praised for their work. The first recipients from the general AAC were Mr. Kyle Duvenhage, for his great initiative, and Miss Risuna Risimati for her service.

AAC Training

Co-curricula

The AAC's co-curricula recognition allowed for AAC members to receive transcript recognition for their leadership term, on the basis that their learning is set into curricula and is substantive. This year the AAC has received tailored training from the FVZSI, namely the AAC Leadership Development Programme.

This took place both through online activities and 3 in-person sessions throughout the first semester of 2023. The dates are 20 January 2023; 25 February 2023 and 25 March 2023

Overview:

The Academic Affairs Council (AAC)'s Leadership Development Programme, developed by the Frederik van Zyl Slabbert Institute for Student Leadership Development (FVZSI), within the Centre for Student Leadership, Experiential Education and Citizenship at Stellenbosch University, in partnership with the Stellenbosch University Academic Affairs Council (AAC). The AAC Leadership Development Programme is developed specifically to create a platform for all members of the AAC Executive to develop a contextual understanding and framework for sustainable leadership, and to identify and unpack the contribution of each member of the AAC in developing and growing the work and objectives of the AAC, for the benefit of all students.

The objectives and outcomes of the AAC Leadership Development Programme are as follows:

Objectives:

- To identify and unpack the various elements that contribute to the identity of an individual (and within a team), and how those elements contribute to the way individuals perceive the world,
- To discuss the meaning and understanding of sustainable leadership within a South African context, as well as within the Academic Affairs Council, and the various principles that form its foundation; o identify and analyse the challenges related to sustainable leadership within various contexts (focus on the AAC), and to create a platform for students to brainstorm various solutions that can be implemented.

Outcomes:

- Upon the completion of the *AAC Leadership Development Programme*, participants will:
- Have an in-depth understanding of their strengths and shortcomings in relation to leadership development as individuals and within a team, so that they can align the needs identified with their individual and collective strengths;
- Have a common understanding of the meaning of sustainable leadership within the AAC and within South Africa, so that they can identify the challenges and opportunities related to the development of future-focused leaders;
- Develop and create possible solutions to fast-track the progress and growth of the challenges pertaining to challenges in leadership that have been identified within a local (AAC) and South African context.

Plans for Next Term

While the second academic term of 2023 is a short, academically heavy one, the AAC aims to keep the SU student body's academics at the fore.

In terms of the council members, I aim to oversee some team building for the Executive and the General Council, so that members can be supported, heard, seen, valued and praised for their efforts.

We aim to address our concerns regarding Readmission by means of providing feedback to the Registrar's division, by means of the Deputy-Registrar.

Constitutional reviews are being undertaken for the majority of Faculty Student Committees' constitutions, as well as the Tygerberg Academic Affairs Council. This process is largely overseen by Miss Ila Alberts.

Further, we aim to unpack and investigate what the institutions efforts are regarding the impact load shedding has as the student body gears up for an examination term.

We also aim to liaise with the centre for Teaching and Learning, so as to unpack how best to share information regarding AI, and its uses, benefits, and dangers for the student body.

Finally, we as an AAC always strive to increase our visibility and impact.