



**Stellenbosch**

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**SRC**

Students' Representative Council  
Ibhunga elimele abafundi  
Studenteraad



## SRC TERM II REPORT

SRC International – Dylan Schmidt



Students' Representative Council

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## Table of Contents

Constitutional Responsibilities.....	3
Portfolio Overview.....	4
Committees/Task Teams .....	5
Term II Overview .....	6

*saam vorentoe · masiye phambili · forward together*

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**Dylan Schmidt – SRC  
International** –  
[Schmidt@sun.ac.za](mailto:Schmidt@sun.ac.za)

## Foreword

Hey Maties!

This term has been a massive success for many! The first term often feels very long, and this one definitely did too! But it meant there was a lot of time to get a lot done, and I feel the SRC as a whole has accomplished a lot throughout this period.

The main notes come around registration and all the problems which arise in the first weeks of class, in which I felt the SRC played a significant role in the assisting of students.

This time was also significant for the international students with a number of issues arising throughout the registration period for various reasons, but through the help of the International department and the rest of the SRC, we were able to direct and assist students where necessary when issues came about.

There have also been a number of key international events which have been of notice this term, the standout being the SIAN week, where the international department welcomed over 100 delegates from various Universities around the world, culminating in the celebration of 30 years of internationalisation in Stellenbosch University.

Student run initiatives were also supported through this portfolio such as supporting a hiking initiative where students organised transport and food for students to participate in a successful hike around Jonkershoek.

In all this term was a great success, getting this year off to a good start. We look forward for the exciting time ahead! I would like to encourage all students, especially international students to feel free to reach out to me on: [Schmidt@sun.ac.za](mailto:Schmidt@sun.ac.za) if any assistance is required!

## Constitutional Responsibilities

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According to the student constitution my constitutional responsibilities are the following:

As the SRC international portfolio holder, my constitutional responsibilities can be split between the duties imposed on me as an SRC member, a member of the SRC Executive Committee and my portfolio specific duties.

As an SRC Member, sections 27 and 32 impose the prevalent duties. Accordingly, I must always act in the best interest of students and to actively promote their constitutionally provided rights. Other specific duties include to represent students on institutional committees. 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 have to attend an SRC meeting every two weeks during the academic term.

As an Executive Committee member, section 41 and 42 imposes additional obligations. This includes setting the agenda for SRC meetings, managing the day-to-day activities of the SRC, compiling the SRC budget and deciding on portfolio allocations. Finally, I am required to attend weekly meetings.

## Portfolio Overview

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The role of the SU International portfolio head is to ensure accessibility of information and documentation related to being an International Student. We are the point of contact for all concerns raised by international students and liaise with the International Office for matters. Our role is to facilitate projects to increase the wellbeing of International Students on campuses, as well as to facilitate engagement between various International Students. We ensure equality of offerings for all international students and promote pride of identities for international students.

The holder of the SRC international portfolio is to prioritise all students, with further consideration being given to international students, in decision making. This entails finding ways to ease the lives of students including providing easier access to relevant documents and increasing the collaboration between international students.

The role can be highlighted as the following:

- Acting as a point of call for International Students when required.
- Assisting the International Department in spreading relevant information to international students.
- Act as a key liaison between the international department and the international students.
- Facilitate International Student ideas and initiatives.
- Be present at relevant international events.
- Uphold the necessary standards of the SRC in representing the best interests of the students.

## Committees/Task Teams

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I serve on the following Committees or Task Teams:

**Institutional advisory committee on internationalization:** A representative committee on internationalisation from across the faculties and support environments. We have facilitated the implementation of a member of the Tygerberg Student representatives for Internationals onto this committee, which is an exciting progression in increasing engagement with their campus and expanding Internationalisation there too! (The next meeting will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2023 in which further feedback can be provided)

**USKOF:** Stellenbosch University's Co-Curricular Support Fund (SUCSF/USKOF) is administered by the Division Student Affairs and is a student bursary fund for national, international, and online co-curricular events and courses. This committee has not yet met this year and the next USKOF meeting will be held on the April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**Student achievement committee:** This committee is formed to reward students for significant achievements such as the rector's awards. The Student Achievement Committee is chaired by the Vice-Rector (Learning & Teaching). The Senior Director: Student Affairs, Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the SRC, the SRC member responsible for the Rector's Award for Excellent Achievement and the Senior Director: Communication and Liaison form the core committee with the Chairperson. This committee has not met this term.

## Term II Overview

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During my second term in office, I Executed the following:

### **Registration:**

Throughout this period, I was often called as a liaison between the international office in order to assist in various different ways with numerous students. Often over email, I had to direct a number of international students in a number of different ways to assist them with accommodation, registration, visas, and other issues. This period was stressful but successful, starting the year off intensely but well.

### **Budget Setting assistance:**

As with the rest of the SRC Executive, we, led by Queen finalised the new SRC budgets, including making decisions based on the budgets of the new managers, including a number of reworkings of initial plans.

### **Executive meetings:**

This term has seen a number of successful Executive meetings between us, allowing us to successfully drive the SRC as well as taking relevant issues, such as load-shedding problems, food insecurity and various registration period issue up to a rectorate level.

### **Assistance with Hiking Initiative:**

This was a great initiative set up by one of our international students to take a number of them on a group hike together. My portfolio assisted through providing their food, which was a R662.91 total on the budget. With this being the only money used by the portfolio used this term we would like to support more initiatives like this in the following terms.

### **International Events:**

As a part of the role of SU international, I attended a number of important international department events, such as SIAN week and the 30 years of internationalisation celebrations. The international food evening as usual was a great success. I played my role in sharing information of certain events for international students and assisted a number of students in finding necessary information for such events.

### **Transferring the SRC Sport Portfolio:**

As the SRC Sports portfolio has now been transferred under a new manager, I would like to assist the new member in settling into the role which I previously occupied, through providing necessary documentation handover and assisting in navigating their position within the SRC.

## Plans for Next Term

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This next term, whilst being short, promises to be an exciting time ahead. Without the stresses of registration and with the team now settled down, I would like to grow into my role to find out the more in depth issues our students face, and hopefully come up with innovative solutions to assist them. With this I implore all students to reach out to the SRC for assistance in moving this University forward.

As a member of the executive, I hope our team continues to work well together to make sure that the SRC can run efficiently and can bring suitable points up to the highest level in the university, to ensure that the students voices are heard, and the university can develop in a student focused direction. The executive in the next term will look into the midterm redirection of the team in order to keep our momentum going in a positive direction.

In the SU International portfolio, I hope to continue supporting Student led initiatives whilst assisting the international department spread information regarding their events. As much as we all hope for a smooth term ahead, I hope if there are issues that I can be a key liaison between the international students and the international department to facilitate the betterment of the student lives of the internationals on our campus.

I am looking forward to engaging with various the institutional committees throughout the next term and will provide the necessary feedback in the next term report.