



STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL
IBHUNGA ELIMELE ABAFUNDI
STUDENTERAAD



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1918 - 2018

SRC 2021/22 TERM REPORT 2 CHAIRPERSON

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Students' Representative Council
Third Floor, Neelsie Student Centre
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VIWE KOBOKANA – CHAIRPERSON – VIWEK@SUN.AC.ZA

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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.

There was a discussion on the first rough draft which concluded with the final timeline consisting of the deadlines and dates of presentations for internal consultation being shared. On the 6th of April members of the committee presented the first draft to the SRC and invited student leaders for consultation. The timeline included a discussion at Council on the 11th of April and finalisation of the report by the committee which will end in a final discussion at Senate and approval at Council.

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.

From the submission of my previous term report to date there has not been an ICBC meeting.

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.



The LSAL team met frequently in the term and even during recess. The programme has been finalised with the speakers and panel members still being confirmed. As this is not a flagship initiative by the SRC, rather the SRC assisting FVZS, I do not think more can be shared other than where we are now in the progress of the summit.

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. (idk can I say anything? I really don't know what's appropriate for this report at this stage re: SAC as the content is quite sensitive. Please advise)

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.

This past term was busy as per usual for SASUF. We continued to have board and general student network meetings. There is an upcoming meeting in Sweden for all the Swedish members for them to meet one another in person and the South African members are considering the same type of meeting for us this side. The network hosts coffee breaks which are social networking sessions hosted virtually for anyone to join. Information continues to be passed down regarding funding and exchange opportunities between SASUF member universities.

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).

From the submission of my previous term report to date there has not been a Council meeting.

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

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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.

From the submission of my previous term report to date there has not been a task team meeting, however, there is a working draft that the writing group has uploaded for the rest of the team to give input on, which will be made into the first draft of the policy.

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Term Overview

I fulfilled my duties of supporting my team and being present to offer advice and guidance where necessary. We completed a successful registration period which was difficult at first however once we restructured and adapted our plan for the registration period things went a lot smoother. A report will be compiled with sections from the relevant SRC members, and it will be presented to DSAf and Rectorate with updates on the registration period as well as recommendations for improvement.

Ms Alysa-Abby Kekana and I formed part of the SU delegation at the Parliamentary portfolio committee visit and presented on transformation in the university from the student perspective. Our presentation included strides made and challenges faced by the SRC and by the university, in relation to transformation.

I was invited as a VIP guest at all rugby varsity cup games played at Danie Craven and although I have not been able to attend most due to their clash with SRC EC meetings, it has been a great opportunity to get to support our rugby team.

I had hoped to execute two events in the term however I was unable to due to time constraints. My portfolio is one that includes at least one meeting per day and I realise now that I will not be able to have extra initiatives on the side in my capacity as the Chairperson. I therefore will continue to support the team with the initiatives and events that they have.