



STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL
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SRC 2021/22 TERMREPORT 2 SENIOR PRIM COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

saam vorentoe · masiye phambili · forward together

Students' Representative Council
Third Floor, Neelsie Student Centre
Private Bag XI, Matieland, 7602
Tel: +27 21 808 2757 | Email: sr@sun.ac.za



[EUGENE NELL] – [SENIOR PRIM COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON] – [ENELL@SUN.AC.ZA]

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Constitutional Responsibilities

As an ex-officio member of the SRC my role is to act in the best interest of students and to advocate for their rights as outlined in the Bill of Student Rights.

To do so, I represent students at various committees, structures and functionaries of the university which will be elaborated on under *Committees/Task Teams*. At these bodies, I review and give input on university policy to ensure the rights of the students, which I represent, are at the forefront.

Further, I facilitate projects and initiatives which I believe add value to the student body. Finally, I use my platform to inform the students I represent of the activities of the SRC and in turn also obtain feedback from them, which can be used to advise the SRC on the success of its projects and initiatives. I must attend an SRC meeting every two weeks during the academic term.

As Senior Prim Committee Chairperson specifically, I hold the highest authority on the Senior Prim Committee. I represent the Senior Prim Committee on various bodies of the university and ensure that the committee complies with the regulations of the Student Constitution and the Senior Prim Committee Constitution.

I am responsible for chairing bi-weekly Senior Prim Committee meetings, where the Senior Prim discuss potential policy and regulation changes which could be advocated for the serve residents of senior accommodation at the university. Additionally, collaborative projects and initiatives are also proposed at Senior Prim Committee meetings.

As the Chairperson I am accountable to members and senior accommodation residents to ensure that the decisions taken at Senior Prim Committee meetings are implemented effectively and timely.



Portfolio Overview

The Senior Prim Committee consists of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, and the Prim, or their nominee, of each senior residence, as well as any other members that are provided for in the constitution of the Senior Prim Committee.

Other members provided for in the SPC constitution are the Senior Living Spaces (SLS) cluster convenors and new structures for senior students residing outside of residences – Rubix.net, amaMaties.net and Wimbledon.Net.

The Senior Prim Committee is responsible for representing and advocating for the rights, needs and desires of all students living in senior accommodation at Stellenbosch University. We achieve this vision by meeting regularly to discuss and address critical issues faced by the students that we represent. Further, we initiate collaborative projects to the benefit of our constituency encouraging collaboration between different houses and communities in our space, as well as with the Senior Living Spaces Cluster.

The Senior Prim Committee is also represented at the SRC, through the chairperson. This ensures that the interests of senior students are represented at this platform and that all SRC decisions have considered the impact that it would have on senior students. The SRC also stays informed on the current activities within senior accommodation and vice-versa.



Committees/Task Teams

Senate

- Statutory body of the University that is responsible, and accountable to the Council, for the academic and research functions of the University.
- Senate regulates learning, teaching, research, and academic support functions and makes recommendations to Council.
- Responsibilities include determining the conditions for obtaining qualifications, making rules for academic programmes, making recommendations regarding establishment or reconfiguration of academic structures, and making recommendations relating to the appointment of deans.

Senate Library Committee

- Committee in the office of Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Postgraduate Studies.
- Develop and review policy regarding the Library and Information Services.
- Give strategic input from the perspective of academic interests regarding the Library and Information Service.
- Ensure that opportunities for international collaboration and internationalisation of access to academic information are brought the attention of the relevant role-players.

Student Communities Advisory Committee

- Committee in the office of Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Learning and Teaching.
- Advise DVC on ways to effect coordination between residences, cluster, and hub processes as they align to the University's strategic planning.
- Advise on clusters as an organizing principle for student life, academic affairs, and delivery of services.
- Ensure that University infrastructure enables holistic integration and coordination of all student-related housing, cluster, and hub activities.
- Act as a communication agent and consultation forum for the various divisions involved in the Committee for matters relating to student communities and student housing.

Stellenbosch University Co-Curricular Fund

- Committee in the office of Senior Director: Student Affairs.
- Dispensing financial support for students who seek to improve their co-curricular competencies.
- Includes but not limited to conferences, meetings, workshops, and non-academic exchanges.



Honorary Degrees Committee

- A joint standing committee of Council and Senate chaired by the Rector.
- Request and consider nominations of suitable candidates for the award of honorary degrees and to make recommendations to Senate and Council regarding such rewards.

SU GBV Monitoring Committee

- Committee in the office of Deputy Director and Head: Transformation Office.
- Tasked with developing a University Anti-GBV Strategy that embodies the values of the institution.
- The Anti-GBV Strategy involves preventative initiatives, incident reporting, case management and tracking, mediation, and communication.

Student Institutional Transformation Committee

- Committee chaired by the SRC Transformation Officer.
- Participate in drafting and revising the SU Transformation Plan.
- Monitor and report on the progress of realising the University's transformation imperatives.
- Propose interventions to help the University pursue its transformation imperatives and advise the Transformation Office and the Senior Director: Social Impact and Transformation on transformation matters.

Bridge the Gap Committee

- Committee in the office of Senior Director: Development and Alumni Relations.
- Advise on the fundraising initiatives of various institutional projects that fall under the Bridge the Gap Annual Fund umbrella.
- Promote the #matieshavedrive project which is administered by the Senior Prim Committee and its constituents for the benefit of senior students.

Senior Prim Committee's Constitution Committee

- Committee chaired by an SPC Executive Member.
- Reviews all constitutions, rules, or regulations of house committee constitutions.
- Reviews SPC Constitution every three years.



Term Overview

Upon my return to campus after the December break, I attended a registration campaign workshop and subsequently informed the Senior Prim Committee on the SRC's plan for registration.

This plan involved four different workstreams of which I actively participated in three: Campus Operations, Newcomer Transport and Academic Operations. Campus Operations involved manning the information desk at Admin A and manning the SRC reception and telephone line. Newcomer Transport involved driving to different ports of arrival and providing newcomers with free transport to the Stellenbosch Campus. Academic Operations involved assisting students with issues relating to enrolment and readmission.

After the registration period, I started to plan the Senior House Committee Leadership Development weekend. Planning involved sourcing quotes for catering, booking a venue, filing all COVID compliance documentation, meeting and discussing the proposed program with external stakeholders and potential facilitators.

The program was finalised and sent out to all Senior House Committees and Resident Heads two weeks prior to the event. The development program was carried out successfully with Senior Prim's providing positive and constructive feedback at the following Senior Prim Committee meeting.

Additionally, I also participated in the .Net training program presented by the PSO Office. The aim of this program was to equip the incoming leaders of the newly established senior communities (Rubix.net, amaMaties.net and Wimbledon.Net) which serves postgraduate students who are not currently living in SU accommodation.

After receiving a letter of resignation from the Vice-Chairperson (VC), the Senior Prim Committee decided that the roles of the VC would be divided among three members of the Senior Prim Committee Executive. These roles include chairing the #matieshavedrive Project Committee, chairing the Senior Prim Committee's Constitution Committee, and managing internal relations.

Further, I along with several members of the Senior Prim Committee participated in the Leadership Showcase organized by the SRC Manager for Leadership and Development. This involved setting up a promotional stall on the Rooiplein to market the Senior Prim Committee as a structure to the student body and to engage with them on matters that we could assist them with.

General duties in the term included chairing Senior Prim Committee meetings throughout the term and regularly engaging with the Senior Living Spaces Cluster Coordinator and Resident Heads regarding the takeaways from these meetings. Further, I attended all SRC meetings possible and participated in the various institutional committees as outlined under *Committees/Task Teams*.



Budget Usage

<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount budgeted</u>	<u>Amount utilised</u>	<u>Amount available</u>
Leadership Development Weekend	R5000	R1800	R3200



Plans for next term

Next term will be spent working on the following projects:

1. Ensuring that the Senior Prim Committee's Constitution Committee attends constitutional literacy training presented by Student Court.
2. Monitoring the review of the Senior Prim Committee Constitution.
3. Monitoring the progress of the #matieshavedrive project.
4. Initial succession planning which includes the development of an improved House Committee Leadership Development program.
5. Addition of Senior Prim Committee events onto the Centre for Student Communities Calendar for 2022.