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SRC

Students' Representative Council
Ibhunga elimele abaFundi
Studenteraad



SRC 2024 TERM 2 REPORT

SOCIAL IMPACT

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Foreword



Dear Maties

In this new term that lies ahead, I encourage you all to continue to stand in full belief of your capabilities.

I ask that we avail ourselves of to the service of community to ensure that we are accountable to driving the change we desire to see,

As we approach election day, may we all celebrate our power to make a difference by casting our votes.

Your voice matters and your vote could be the very catalyst is creating positive, long-lasting social change.

Let us all be the responsible engaged citizens that our society needs.

"I cannot say whether things will get better if we change; what I can say is they must change if they are to get better." — Georg C. Lichtenberg

SRC Social Impact

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Constitutional Responsibilities

According to the student constitution as the Social Impact Officer it is my duty and obligation to:

- 1) Represent students on the Social Impact Committee (SIC) at Senate
- 2) Work in close collaboration with the university's Division of Social Impact (DSI)
- 3) Connect and engage with social impact leaders within residences and CSCs (Commuter Student Community)
- 4) Encourage engaged citizenship through student volunteerism
- 5) Organise SRC (Students Representative Council) specific outreach and community events and projects as well facilitate registration of initiatives with DSI.
- 6) Promote social impact projects and improve student attendance at these events

Portfolio Overview

The SRC Social Impact Portfolio is centred on pioneering change through student participation to create more equitable communities outside Stellenbosch University.

The 2024 SRC Social Impact Vision is to establish a legacy of student collaboration and volunteerism through engaged citizenship in the following United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:

- Zero Hunger
- No Poverty
- Quality education
- Reduced Inequalities

As a portfolio, it is our mandate to ensure every student graduates with an understanding of social justice and responsibility and is better equipped to address societal issues.

Committees/Task Teams

I serve on the following Committees and or Task Teams:

Division of Social Impact:

The Division for Social Impact (DSI) serves as SU's first point of reference for staff, students and partners wanting to engage in Social Impact. The DSI does not run initiatives; it provides advice, guidance, and support and facilitates engagement.

The DSI offers support in the following ways:

- Engaged Learning & Teaching support
- Engaged Citizenship
- Engaged Research Support & Engaged Partnerships
- Volunteerism
- Social Impact Knowledge Platform

Social Impact committee: Senate

As an SRC member on the Social Impact Committee (SIC), it is my responsibility to provide a student perspective to ensure effective governing and the provision of strategic direction to the implementation of the university's Social Impact Strategic Plan (SISP)

Food security programme and emergency relief:

No student should be burdened with the stress of food insecurity and for this reason the University has implemented long-term and sustainable food security programmes that can be accessed by all students. Students who are facing food insecurity can apply for assessment for eligibility for food assistance via the appropriate University channels. To streamline the application process, the guidelines are set according to the following categories:

- Students who receive a bursary or financial assistance
- Students who do not receive financial support.
- Food emergencies for students who need immediate relief.

Request for an emergency food allowance can be directed to **supportUS@sun.ac.za**. A holistic assessment of the student's financial needs will be undertaken.

Term 2 Overview

During my second term in office, I was actively involved in the following:

- Establishing structured communication, collaboration, and engagement with Social impact leaders and divisions.
- Pantry Project Planning
- Community Projects and campaign collaboration
- SRC Subcommittee
- Engaged Citizenship

Communication, Collaboration and Engagement

With the help of fellow SRC members and their portfolio networks as well as assistance from the DSI, we were able to help connect with social impact leaders (SI leaders) within our student body to ensure a collaborative and supportive working environment for all student led social impact initiatives.

Monthly meetings with the respective SI leaders have been taking place to closely monitor progress through term reports which are handled by the DSI and to offer additional support for the respective leaders to ensure they can fully engage with their portfolio plans.

An official website detailing all the student events, projects and campaigns including all volunteering opportunities will be made live to the student body before the end of this month to ensure that student participation in enhancing our external SU (Stellenbosch University) communities is achieved.

Student Pantry Initiative

Food insecurity is a wide-spread problem within our student community with students not being able to access the support they need due to the high demand on food access created by the delay in NSFAS payouts and other financial difficulties experienced by students.

After engaging with the TSRC (Tygerberg Student Representative Council) Social Impact Manager and seeing how well their student pantry has been running to provide temporary relief to students needing access to food, with the help of the DSI, I have decided to establish a campus-wide student pantry initiative.

The aim of this initiative is to work with SI leaders, SI communities, CSCD and all respective stakeholders to provide sufficient short-term support to students affected by food insecurity but also engage with respective stakeholders on producing effective long-term solutions and systems that address this wide-spread issue.

The main objective of the pantry project initiative to date is to ensure that as we enter exam season students have access to food to ensure that food insecurity is not an obstacle in their study careers.

Community Projects and Campaigns

All partnerships and volunteer opportunities can be found on the recently updated university social impact website:

The current campaigns and initiatives that we have partnered with this term:

Clothing Drive:

U-turn will be setting up a clothing bin on central campus to collect clothing to support the homeless.

Body20 :

We are helping promote Body20's non-perishable Annual food drive for the Pebbles Project which started on the 1st of April where new Body20 members can get a 60% reduction on their joining fees by donating an item of food.

We are looking to establish a successful collaboration with our sport communities and students on campus to make the campaign a success.

Rise Against Hunger

On the 20th of April, in partnership with Rise Against Hunger, we aim to package 50 000 meals.

This packing event will be a fun opportunity for students to participate in while engaging students with the zero hunger SDG.

Plans for Next Term

In the upcoming term I look forward to:

- Pad making workshop facilitated by a feminine hygiene and period poverty advocate organisation to promote sustainability, women's health, and sanitation
- Sandwich drive partnership with Laddles of Love for World Tuna Day
- Establishing synergy and full student engagement with outreach activities and events for Nelson Mandela Day

Budget Overview Term 2

Project/Event	Amount
Pantry Project Start up:	7 500
Clothing Drive indirect costs:	650
Rise Against Hunger provisional budget	4 000