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SRC

Students' Representative Council
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Studenteraad



SRC 2024 TERM 2 REPORT

SRC POLICY OFFICER

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Foreword

Hello Maties !

What a beautiful yet hot and vibrant start to the 2024 year. It is always the start of a leadership term that dictates how the year will progress and I truly believe that the passion that I have entered the term with with fuel my perserverance and give purpose to my role to help the greater Student Community.

Upon entering the role, my to-do list grew with big tasks that need to be fulfilled, namely the Student Constitution Review. This past term has truly shown me the analogy of sink or swim and the importance of being on top things; for failing to prepare means preparing to fail. Policies are the force for allowing change, inclusivity and transformation, however such milestones are not achieved overnight and are hindered by those who speak with little action to follow. Therefore, public participation is integral for a successful student democracy to protect our rights. This can be achieved through participation in SRC events and attending Student Parliament Meetings.

I cannot wait to take on this year with you and serve to the best of my abilities, I am to keep our student interest's and needs at the forefront of all conversations we enter into this year.

Constitutional Responsibilities

As the SRC Policy Officer my constitutional responsibilities can be split between the duties imposed on me as an SRC member 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 evaluate and give input on institutional policies, to facilitate projects to the benefit of students and finally to formulate policy in order for the SRC to perform their duties effectively. 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 the Policy Officer I am constitutionally mandated to ensure SRC policies are formulated correctly and to assist other members in evaluating institutional policies. I am further required to assist the SRC with interpretations of the Student Constitution and other policies where it is requested. Finally I am mandated to safe-keep all student-related constitutions.

Portfolio Overview

The Policy Officer portfolio is responsible for ensuring the SRC deals with policies appropriately. This includes:

- 1) Ensuring SRC policies are formulated in terms of the Student Constitution
- 2) Assisting other members evaluating institutional policies
- 3) Developing new SRC policies where needed
- 4) Curating and supporting SRC policymaking
- 5) Reviewing institutional policies
- 6) Facilitating training on policymaking to members

Further duties of this portfolio revolve around the accessibility of existing policies. Exact duties include:

- 7) Developing accessible processes for students to find institutional and student policies
- 8) Safekeeping and creating a repository of all student-related constitutions

Committees/Task Teams

I serve on the Communications task team of the SRC. This task team consists of myself, Vice-Chair, Chair, Communications Officer, Visibility Manager and the Secretary-General. This committee serves to

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consolidate and discuss all information that needs to be communicated to all the relevant stakeholders of campus. This ensures that there is no miscommunication and reduces the possibility of information being misunderstood. This past term nothing was of vital importance to communicate so the committee was in limbo.

Additionally, I have created a sub-committee for the Student Constitution Review that consists of Risuna Risimati (AAC chairperson, second-year law student), Panashe Mayena (Senior Living Spaces Cluster Convenor), James Caldwell (BAccLLB student) and Ila Alberts (Student Imbizo Convenor, third-year law student) who will help with the drafting and ratification process of the new Student Constitution. The committee met on the throughout the term to discuss changes and share thoughts.

Term 2 Overview

The first term of 2024 proved to be chaotically productive term. Campus faced an influx of students retuning to their studies which demanded the SRC to assist in all matters where possible. This led to the team working from 8am to late evenings even early morning. Nonetheless, I am grateful for the experience to try and make the Matie Dream as smooth as possible for my fellow students.

The drafting of the Student Constitution has proved to be no simple task. Throughout the term multiple leaders on campus were consulted on what changes they would like to see in the Student Constitution and how we could make structures more accessible, efficient and effective. These meetings will continue in the following term to finalise the last chapters. Meetings were held with Lisinda De Jager and Pieter Kloppers who share a law background and insightful knowledge of leadership within Stellenbosch. The meetings provided a different outlook on certain structures and have been tabled to consider for possible changes. A meeting has been scheduled with Lisnda for the first week back of next term. Anele and Thulani have also been very helpful with the Constitutional Benchmarking process through liaising with multiple campuses to understand their procedures and structures. Anele has also introduced myself to multiple key-role players on campus to help me with the role of drafting the new Student Constitution. The Review Committee is on track to have this document ready for participation by the end of the month, pending the outcome of the meetings with other campus leaders and management.

Last term, I was tasked with drafting a Code of Ethics which would apply to all leaders on campus. It is with pleasure that I announce drafted is completed and has been forwarded to other heads of structures for public opinion. Once all final edits have been made, approval will be held at Student Assembly followed by Student Court and the Director of Centre for Student Life and Learning. Special mention is made for Monwabisi Petersen that provided support during the drafting of the Code of Ethics. Furthermore, I was requested by Noel Bekker to help review the Concordia Constitution and provide opinion on how to improve their election procedure to increase participation. I also had a meeting with Cassidy Lackay, Harmonie's Prim, to discuss changes that could be implemented in their constitution. I also provided insights to the SRC Exec upon electing the Electoral Commissioner regarding transparency and fairness with their procedures.

At the start of the term, the SRC Code of Conduct was finally signed by all SRC personnel which now allows set rules to hold each other accountable to. Currently, conversations are occurring to determine whether the meaning of "relaxed time" is too broad and whether it needs for a more detailed explanation what is allowed during that time in the office.

The Saturday after Human Rights Day, the Student Assembly Policy Forum met to introduce its mandate, aims and members to the committee. It was discussed how each of us, the policy officers for each respective structure, can aid each other in lightening the workload when it comes to policies. Currently, the policy forum is reviewing the Code of Ethics, mentioned earlier and many have been approached concerning the Student Constitution.

Budget Plan

I spent a further R500 for printing the Code of Conduct for all SRC personnel.

Plans for next term

Next term will be spent working on the following projects:

1. Assisting Ex-officio structures with their Constitutional Reviews
2. Interpreting and formulating policy as the situation to do so arises.
3. Voting in the Leadership Code
4. Draft the new Student Constitution and allow public commentary