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SRC

Students' Representative Council
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Studenteraad



SRC 2024 TERM 2 REPORT

Prim Committee Chairperson

Students' Representative Council

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Table of Contents

Constitutional Responsibilities	4
Portfolio Overview	6
Committees/Task Teams.....	7
Term 1 Overview	9

Andri Malan – Prim Committee Chairperson – 25017764@sun.ac.za



Foreword

Dear Maties,

This has been a challenging term – one of growth, perspective and determination. Our student realities have been shaken and many of us have found ourselves off balance in the first few months of 2024. It has also been a season of celebration to welcome the newcomers of 2024 to Matieland.

As I am writing this letter and report, I am humbled by the privilege to serve you. It has been so rewarding seeing the Prim Committee serve its communities in a manner that speaks of sacrifice and a great care for its people. I want to take a moment to honour every student leader – positional or not – that supported students during the first term. Your efforts have not gone unseen.

I cannot believe that I am officially halfway through my leadership term! Contributing to campus in a meaningful way has been at the forefront of my mind for the past six months and it will continue to be for the next. Thank you for all your trust and support in a season that is difficult to navigate.

As always, I look forward to advocating, empowering and supporting you in this next term.

Kindest regards,
Andri Malan

Constitutional Responsibilities

According to the Student Constitution, the Chairperson has the following responsibilities:

Chapter 9 of the Student Constitution is dedicated to the Prim Committee and outlines the various powers and responsibilities vested in the Prim Committee.

Section 98 of the Student Constitution elucidates the composition of the PC, emphasizing section 98(1)(a), which stipulates that the Prim Committee comprises the chairperson and the executive committee, endowed with rights granted by the Prim Committee Constitution. Section 99 details the duties and powers of the Prim Committee, emphasizing its role in representing the interests of residents and members of CSCs to the SRC and University management. Additionally, decisions made by the Prim Committee hold binding authority over all House Committees.

Section 100 of the Student Constitution defines the constitutional mandate of the Prim Committee, emphasizing its duty to actively advocate for the rights of students outlined in Chapter 2 of the Student Constitution, with specific reference to section 8(1). Section 101 addresses the constitutions, rules, and regulations of different communities, asserting that the Prim Committee Constitution binds all community constitutions within the Prim Committee. Notably, Section 101(5) grants the Prim Committee the authority to establish a committee for approving constitutions, rules, regulations, or amendments by House Committees.

According to the Prim Committee Constitution, the Chairperson has the following responsibilities:

- i) Serving as the Presiding officer at meetings of the Prim Committee and Executive Committee.
- ii) Being the Spokesperson of the Prim Committee.
- iii) Representing the interests of all Communities on the Students' Representative Council as an ex officio member.
- iv) Oversight over the activities of Communities, the Prim Committee, and the Executive Committee.
- v) Holding the Executive Committee accountable.
- vi) Assigning responsibilities and projects to the Executive Committee.

- vii) External correspondence on behalf of the Prim Committee to other Student Leadership Structures.
- viii) Responsible for oversight of the Prim Committee funds.
- ix) Representing the Prim Committee on various institutional bodies as determined by those structures.
- x) Being the Caretaker PSOs and fulfilling all the duties necessary for that representational capacity.
- xi) Ensuring that the Prim Committee fulfils its mandate.

Prim Committee Chairperson



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Portfolio Overview

The Prim Committee Chairperson bears the responsibility of overseeing various activities aimed at ensuring the efficient functioning of the committee and its contribution to the development of student leaders and the campus community. These activities are specifically aligned with four key pillars or university structures: the Prim Committee, Student Representative Council, and the Centre for Student Life and Learning. The Prim Committee serves as a platform where any student in a community space may raise a query through their respective House Committees and Prims, who then reports it to the Prim Committee meeting. The Prim Committee Executive will then deal with the matter directly or refer it to the relevant structure where appropriate.

1) The Student Representative Council (SRC)

Working alongside the Prim Committee Vice-Chairperson, Courtney de Klerk, the Prim Committee Chairperson holds the responsibility of nurturing and maintaining an effective relationship with the Student Representative Council (SRC) for the benefit of Student Communities. In instances where student concerns emerge within community spaces, the CSC Representative or Residence Representative is able to bring them up for discussion during SRC meetings or highlight them specifically to the SRC Executive Committee. This streamlined communication process plays a valuable role in keeping the SRC informed about developments within community spaces.

2) The Centre for Student Life and Learning (CSLL)

The Prim Committee Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson engage in meetings with the Director and Deputy Director of CSLL to address issues relevant to Student Communities. Additionally, collaborative efforts are invested in the development of Student Leaders through initiatives such as the annual Prim Conference and other significant engagements.

3) Residence Representative

The Chairperson's duty for 2023/2024 is to ensure that all queries in the residence spaces are heard and then resolved as expeditiously as possible. If the matter can't be resolved on PC level, the matter will be referred to either the SRC or CSLL.

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Committees/Task Teams

I serve on the following Committees and or Task Teams:

In my capacity as SRC member:

Institutional Forum: The Institutional Forum (IF) plays a crucial role in advising the Council on a variety of issues, including policies, conduct, and management policies. Comprising 23 members representing governance, management, staff, students, and the community, the IF, as per the SU Statute, is mandated to provide guidance to the Council on diverse matters. These include the implementation of race and gender equality policies, the selection of candidates for senior management positions, fostering an institutional culture that promotes respect for human rights, and creating a conducive environment for learning, teaching, and research. Additionally, the IF offers advice on institutional transformation matters.

I was appointed by the SRC to serve as its representative on the IF. Due to the confidential nature of IF meetings, I am unable to disclose specific details.

In my capacity as Prim Committee Chairperson:

Student Community Advisory Committee: The SCAC, previously known as the 'Student Housing Committee,' serves as a platform for discussing various matters related to student communities, such as maintenance, upgrades to residence spaces, and the construction of Cluster HUBs. Chaired by Prof Ramjugernath, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Learning and Teaching, the committee includes members from facilities management, the finance department, SUNCOM, the Centre for Student Life and Learning (CSLL), and student leaders.

Two meetings took place during the second term in office. The meetings began with facilities management providing reports on upgrades and maintenance in various residences. Addressing the loadshedding crisis on campus was a discussion point once again – especially in regard to safety. Generators for residences have been completed in its first phase and discussion was had around the upgrades and maintenance that are to take place across campus in the coming year. Another important topic was

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around the accommodation crises and how emergency accommodation can be executed in a fashion that speaks of human dignity.

Welcoming Committee: The Welcoming Programme Committee, comprising representatives from CSLL, various faculties, and other student leadership structures, is responsible for planning the welcoming period, including faculty programs and the Danie Craven function. Chaired by the Director of the Centre for Student Communities, the committee aims to align all stakeholders on the progress made and expectations from each structure.

The committee collaborates on the Welcoming Programme to ensure adequate preparation for the period. During the second term in office, feedback was given on the 2024 Welcoming period on how it can be improved in future. A large portion of time was around how registration can be improved and how we can ensure effective emergency accommodation in future.

Monitors' Advisory Committee: Consisting of members from management, the Monitors Advisory Committee (MAC) is led by Dr. Choice Makhetha, who serves as the Senior Director of the Division of Student Affairs. This committee oversees both complaints and positive feedback regarding the Welcoming Programme, gathered from cluster monitors and Matie Monitors through the Head Monitor. The Prim Committee Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Director of Student Communities provide updates to the MAC Committee on their actions.

During the Welcoming Programme, typically four MAC meetings are scheduled. Upon receiving a report of any incident, the Head Monitor and Monitors Coordinator promptly notify the Director of Student Communities and the Prim Committee representatives. The Prim Committee Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson then collaborate with the Director of CSC to determine the appropriate course of action, which is subsequently reported in the following MAC meeting. To ensure resolution of all outstanding issues, the committee may request further steps or feedback at subsequent meetings.

The report is set to be released within the initial weeks of the second term of 2024. A final MAC meeting, as well as a gathering for student leaders at Town Hall, will be convened for discussion, organized by the Head Monitor.

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Term 1 Overview

The Prim Committee continued with our commitment to excellence in the first term of 2024. Planning, communication and crisis management were important in this term. I highlighted a few of our main activities this term:

1) Welcoming 2024

I was part of the SRC Roadshow working group during the Welcoming period, where I served as a presenter across various communities. The Roadshow aimed to familiarise newcomers with the SRC, its members, functions, and projects. We incorporated an engaging ice-breaker activity to assess newcomers' knowledge of the SRC in a fun and interactive manner, followed by presentations and Q&A sessions led by one or two members. Regarding the SRC Roadshow, the Prim Committee Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, as members of the SRC Roadshow Working Group, were responsible for creating the SRC Presentation and coordinating session logistics. They effectively communicated the SRC's purpose, function, and opportunities available for student participation. The Roadshow included various sessions throughout the Welcoming Period, with responsibilities shared among group members, ranging from facilitating ice-breaker activities to encouraging newcomers to engage in SRC activities, including voting and running for positions.

Additionally, when not engaged in Roadshow sessions, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Prim Committee organised check-ins with all Prims throughout the Welcoming period. These check-ins were instrumental in monitoring the wellness of Prims during the busy period and providing assistance with any relevant matters.

The Executive took the initiative to organise an Annual Welcoming Meeting, following the previous year's precedent. Through proactive planning and communication, Prims could allocate time for the event, including downtime immediately afterward to reconnect with Prim Committee members. The Head Monitor also explained the new monitoring system to the Prims.

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Furthermore, the Prim Committee Executive requested that the Prim Committee extend invitations to special events during the Welcoming Programme, allowing Executive members to partake in community moments. Notable highlights included various events hosted by different communities, such as social gatherings, cultural evenings and moments of awe.

During the Welcoming Programme, the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Prim Committee conducted daily check-ins with Prims on Stellenbosch Campus, attending events and offering support when crises arose or general advice was needed regarding House Committees. Spontaneous walkabouts were also conducted to engage with communities throughout Welcoming.

2) Matie Shop Discussions

Following the establishment of the Merchandise Advisory Committee and the adoption of the Selective Purchasing Plan, a meeting was held in the first term engaging on the matters pertaining to Welcoming specifically. The meeting revealed misconceptions from Management side and an agreement to engage in good faith at our next meeting about the specific petitions.

3) House Committee Dance

The Prim Committee planned the House Committee Dance in the second term. The intention was to allow for a space to reconnect with leaders that were met in Welcoming and to reward the student leaders for the challenging Welcoming period. The evening was a great success and the theme, a fairy tale dream come true, allowed for a creative outlet.

4) Prim Committee Meetings

In the first term of 2024, we had both ordinary and extraordinary meetings. The most prevalent Agenda Points in the first term included:

- The Wilgenhof matter: The Executive arranged for meetings in pre-Welcoming to inform the Prims on what happened in the Wilgenhof matter. This was before the statement was released or the articles came out. The intention was to allow for the Prims to prepare their communities



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accordingly and to clarify the spectrum of rumours.

- Connect: Conversations around the feasibility of the current Vensters were had. The Executive took the Feedback and engaged with Management. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for the next term.

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5) The Prim Committee Meeting with the Mayor

This engagement was very successful with the mayor encouraging the Prims and the Prim Committee having the opportunity to ask questions. The mayor shared that she used to be in Nerina and her and the current Nerina Prim engaged in a photo opportunity. The Prim Committee had the privilege of meeting in the Town Hall Council Chambers.

6) Wilgenhof

The Wilgenhof matter was a priority this term. The community leaders required support to execute an effective Welcoming programme and to welcome back their seniors. There was also support necessary for the other communities' Prims. Cluster meetings were held with CSCD to allow for a debrief about the matter and Higher Management engaged with Victoria Cluster to ask for support in receiving newcomers and conversing about the matter.

To support Wilgenhof newcomers and for the peace of mind of other communities, the Executive drafted the Wilgenhof Welcoming Plan that was presented to rectorate in the meeting that was held with the SRC Executive during pre-Welcoming. The plan included daily debriefs with the House Committee, a Welcoming programme presentation, 24/7 access to Wilgenhof and an arrangement with the Head Monitor to receive daily monitor feedback.

The debriefs were open to both the SRC and PC Executives. The PC and SRC Executives both had card access to Wilgenhof and early morning site visits were done by the PC Executive. The PC financial manager was excused from involvement with Wilgenhof during Welcoming as it would be a conflict of interest - he willingly stepped aside for the Welcoming period. Regular one-on-one check-ins were done with the Prim, Vice-prim and Residence Head to ensure the safety of newcomers and a healthy Welcoming.

7) Student Community Rugby

After multiple engagements on the matter, Drikus from Maties Rugby came to address concerns at a Prim Committee meeting. The meeting was productive and since the league has started, positive feedback has been received that indicates the success of the new approach to community rugby. Maties Rugby also kindly gifted the Prim Committee with tickets to a Varsity Cup match – this was enjoyed by the Prims and acted as a good bonding opportunity for the Prims to reconnect after a stressful term.

8) Connect Committee Collaboration

The Prim Committee and Connect Committee prioritised collaboration by establishing a Memorandum of Understanding. This was to ensure that the correct communication channels were followed and that both the Prims and the Connect Committee can be held accountable. The Prim Committee assisted Connect on the day of Vensters by distributing the tickets to communities to minimize the time spent in the summer sun.

9) Amendment of the Prim Committee Constitution

I honour the Prim Committee's policy officer, Mr. Jaco Wagener, for his efforts in amending the Prim Committee Constitution. The amendment was passed via vote at a Prim Committee meeting and it has been sent to Student Court for approval.

Plans for Next Term

The first academic term of 2024 will be geared towards ensuring a successful Welcoming for the newcomer students, as well as keeping the momentum within the Prim Committee after a busy Welcoming period.

1. Matie Shop discussions

Following the establishment of the Merchandise Advisory Committee and the adoption of the Selective Purchasing Plan, further meetings will be aimed towards ensuring sustainable solutions for community merchandise, as well as engaging with Management on the petitions set out by the Prim Committee. This will be our second meeting.

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2. Collaboration with the Monitoring Programme

The MAC committee will have another meeting and the Prim Committee Executive will assist with the Town Hall engagement with student leaders.

SUBMITTED BY:



Andri Malan

Prim Committee Chairperson

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