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SRC

Students' Representative Council
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Studenteraad



SRC 2024 TERM 2 REPORT

Prim Committee Vice-Chairperson

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Foreword

Dear Students,

The time I have had to serve the students of Stellenbosch University has been an absolute privilege, within both the Prim Committee and SRC structures.

As a previous Primaria and House Committee member, ensuring the needs of all students are met to the best of our abilities is something I strongly believe in. Equipping them with what they need to experience the life that awaits at Stellenbosch. This is a unique opportunity to expand your horizons, both academically and personally. Step out of your comfort zone, join committees, attend events, and meet new people. The diversity of experiences and perspectives on campus is vast, and it's in these interactions that you'll discover new passions and forge lasting connections.

I am grateful for the opportunity to humbly serve you all and I cannot wait to share my many more passions and ideas with you all. This is simply the first of a few to come.



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Constitutional Responsibilities

As per SU Statute:

Section 68:

"Prim Committee' means the committee of head students of the various residences and in the private student organisation of the University".

As per Student Constitution:

Chapter 9 of the Student Constitution deals with the Prim Committee (PC) and sets out the composition, powers and duties of the PC.

Section 100: Constitutional mandate

"The Prim Committee has a constitutional mandate to: (1) Actively promote the rights of students contained in CHAPTER 2, and specifically the right, under s8(1), to an enabling campus environment in which student success and academic excellence are encouraged and pursued. (2) Serve as a forum of house committee leaders that strives to protect and further the interests of all students, by advising the SRC via the Prim Committee chairperson and vice-chairperson."

As per Prim Committee Constitution:

The PC Constitution, as amended in 2022, provides the mission, vision and core values of the Prim Committee. It also organises the affairs of the PC in respect of its meeting procedures, rights and duties, and code of conduct.

Section 5: Vision

"To sustainably foster a collaborative, advisory, and accountable relationship between Communities as well as to advocate for the needs of the students within these Communities in any and all bodies necessary."

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Section 6: Mission

"To ensure that the values of the university are not only reflected within Communities but upheld intentionally when representing students within said communities. The Prim Committee does this through its collaborative and deliberative engagements."

Section 7: Nature of the Prim Committee

(1) The Prim Committee is established by the Student Constitution as an autonomous student representational body and grants it all the powers necessary for that function.

(2) The Prim Committee functions in partnership with the CSLL to facilitate the advocacy of community-based needs to the CSLL, SRC, and relevant university management.

(3) The Prim Committee also serves as an adequate relay of information between university structures and the Prims of the houses, through the presence of the Prim Committee Executive members on various relevant bodies.

(4) The Prim Committee Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson function as ex-officio members of the SRC and thus, form a chain between the Centre for Student Governance and the CSLL.

(5) The Prim Committee functions to ensure that all Communities represented in the committee function in alignment with the student constitution as well as residence rules. Any community deviating from these documents shall be held accountable.

Portfolio Overview

The Prim Committee is an ex-officio structure to the SRC. The Vice-Chairperson's basic duties are outlined in the PC Constitution, which includes the duty of ensuring that all student communities operate to their full potential. As per the PC Constitution, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the PC must be the representative of either CSC's or residences. For the 2023/24 term, the Vice-Chairperson is the representative of CSC's. The PC 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 PC meeting. The PC Executive will then deal with the matter directly or refer it to the relevant structure where appropriate. The Vice-Chairperson's duty is to ensure that all queries in the CSC 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 (Centre for Student Life and Learning).

PC Constitution section 46(2):

"The Vice-Chairperson of the Prim Committee deputises the Chairperson and is at least responsible for –

- (a) The duties of the Chairperson in the event of the Chairperson being ill or unavailable.
- (b) Supporting the Chairperson in all administrative roles.
- (c) Representing the interests of all Communities on the Students' Representative Council as an ex officio member.
- (d) The evaluation and monitoring of all Communities.
- (e) Meeting all their obligations and duties, as determined by the Executive Committee.
- (f) Appointing and performing oversight over all subcommittees created by the Executive Committee or the Prim Committee and appoints their chairpersons, subject to the procedures in addendum D.

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- (g) The handling of any disciplinary matter within the Prim Committee.
- (h) The internal relations of the Prim Committee.
- (i) Nominating and submitting the list of candidates from which the delegates who represent the Prim Committee on institutional bodies are appointed, by either the Prim Committee or the Executive Committee – subject to the procedures in Addendum D.
- (j) Being the Caretaker of either Residences or CSC and fulfilling all the duties necessary for that special representational capacity.
- (k) The transitional arrangements, alongside the Administrative Officer, between the outgoing Executive Committee and the newly elected Executive Committee."

Committees/Task Teams

In my capacity as Vice-Chairperson of the Prim Committee, I serve on the following Committees and or Task Teams:

1) Student Communities Advisory Committee (SCAC)

The SCAC, formerly known as the 'Student Housing Committee,' serves as a forum for discussing matters related to student communities. This encompasses issues like residence space maintenance or upgrades, and similar topics. Chaired by Prof Ramjugernath, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Learning and Teaching, the committee includes members from facilities management, finance, SUNCOM, the Centre for Student Life and Learning (CSLL), and student leaders. The initial SCAC meeting for term 2 occurred on the 28th of February. The meeting included agenda points of a facilities management feedback report on various upgrades and maintenance across campus, as well as updates on the North Campus residences development. New discussion points covered resident placements for first years, as well as the introduction of green spaces amongst campus, where seeking places on campus for students to be outside and interact in recreational sports.

2) Welcoming Programme Committee

Chaired by the Director of the Centre for Student Life and Learning, the Welcoming Programme Committee comprises representatives from all faculties, the CSLL, and student leadership. The committee collaborates on planning Welcoming and ensuring all stakeholders are well-prepared. The committee met on Tuesday the 23rd of January, as well as Thursday the 22nd of February, just before the commencement of the welcoming period, to discuss final preparations and plans for welcoming the newcomers. A meeting was also held after the welcoming period in order to gather inputs from the relevant stakeholders on what worked during the welcoming period and where improvements could be made for next year.

4) Monitors Advisory Committee

Comprised of management members, the Monitors Advisory Committee (MAC) is chaired by Dr Choice Makhetha, the Senior Director of the Division of Student Affairs. The committee reviews complaints and positive feedback related to the Welcoming Programme from cluster monitors and Matie Monitors, as reported by the Head Monitor. The Prim Committee Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Director of Student Communities report to the MAC Committee based on actions taken. Throughout the Welcoming Programme, there are typically four scheduled MAC meetings. As soon as an incident is reported, the Head Monitor and Monitors Coordinator promptly inform the Director of Student Communities and the Prim Committee representatives. The Prim Committee Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson then collaborate with the Director of CSLL to determine the most appropriate course of action. Action is then taken and reported to the MAC committee in the following meeting. To ensure that all outstanding issues are resolved, the committee may request additional steps to be taken or further feedback to be provided at the next meeting.

In my role as an SRC member, I contribute to the following committees:

1) Senate

As outlined in the SU Statute, the Senate oversees the academic and research functions of the University. It regulates learning, teaching, research, and academic support at SU, providing recommendations to the Council on academic policies. Chaired by Prof Wim de Villiers, the Rector, the Senate consists of the rectorate, COO, academic personnel, administrative and support staff, and student leaders from the SRC and AAC. There was one confidential Senate meeting during the second term in office on March 19, 2024, where agenda details cannot be disclosed.

Term 2 Overview

The second term was one that went extremely quickly, and adapting to the role was a bit easier, but not always the same. One day on the job did not always look like the other day's and one thing I learnt and value now, is being able to adapt quickly to changing environments and circumstances. The highlight from this term included a variety of things, but one had to be the time spent with the Prim Committee Executive Committee engaging with communities and students during the welcoming period.

1. Welcoming 2024:

The commencement period proved to be a busy phase for both me and the entire Prim Committee Executive. Our objective was to actively participate in all community events to which we were invited, ensuring our presence across all communities to show support. Additionally, a large amount of our time was put into regularly checking in with the Prims to ascertain that they felt adequately supported throughout the entirety of the welcoming program. Parallel to that, Andri and I participated in the SRC roadshows, taking it as an opportunity for the SRC to establish a presence in diverse communities, describing the nature of the SRC and its role within the broader Stellenbosch University context.

We had the opportunity to experience various communities 'moments of awe' and it was lovely to see how the communities foster their very own sense of belonging within their spaces. Some highlights include: Lydia's tea talks, seeing the iconic Minerva toga fashion show, being a judge at Aurora's Talent Show, attending various culture evenings, Aristeia's registration day with the purple trolley roaming Victoria Street, and being able to walk the Dream Walk with the Prims.

During the Welcoming Programme, the Executive Committee of the Prim Committee conducted daily check-ins with the Prims and attended several events. The Prims contacted us when a crisis arose or when they needed general advice regarding their House Committees. We also did walkabouts, checking in spontaneously on communities throughout Welcoming.

2. CSC Welcoming Stratcon:

The Centre for Life and Learning (CSLL) had an engagement with the Commuter student leaders where important topics about the Welcoming period were discussed. This was a chance for student leaders to ask all their questions to the staff of the Commuter Student Communities Unit and ensure they felt prepared enough with all aspects to welcoming the 2024 group of newcomers into their space. The stratcon took place on the 24th of January.

Some of the topics that were discussed:

Tent and Safety Measures:

Regarding tents, no one is allowed under them until engineers have approved, as it is a building site. The primary tent should only be booked when the community will be present. Fire extinguishers should be signed out and returned to the CSLL Office, and the community was liable for any loss.

Left-over food packets:

In order to ensure that food is not wasted during the welcoming period, due to fluctuations in numbers of CSC newcomers. I spoke about the collaboration between the SRC office and the CSC leaders. That all the left-over food packets would be taken to the SRC office and

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they would be distributed to the students who did not have access to food during the welcoming period.

Shuttle Service and Transportation:

The Commuter Student Community Unit provides a shuttle service to designated areas in the evenings, and newcomers are responsible for arranging transport from the drop-off point to their homes. One House Committee member should be appointed to manage shuttles, and daily reminders should be made to enquire if anyone still needs transport. Newcomers are walked to the Centre for Student Life and Learning by the house committee members, or mentors of the respective communities.

Walkovers and CSC Transitions:

Per the placement policy, walkovers are strictly prohibited as they can have detrimental effects on the Newcomer's future opportunities within the community. It would be wrong to deny them the chance to participate in activities and meet new people.

3. Continuation of Matie Shop queries

A meeting was held on the 14th of February with the following stakeholders: Prof Stan du Plessis (COO), Hein Swanepoel (Senior Director: SUNCOM), Anita Nel (Chief Director: Innovation and Communication), Lara Cronje (Matie Shop), Andri Malan (Chairperson of the Prim Committee), Jaco Wagner (Prim Committee Administrator Officer), and myself as the Vice-Chairperson of the Prim Committee. This engagement took place to solely discuss the blocking of Purchases Orders, by finance, on communities who were trying to procure alternative, unbranded merchandise. Further engagements are taking place in the following term weeks with the relevant stakeholders. A Merchandise Advisory Committee has been established where the rectorate, representatives of the Matie Shop will be present.

4. Prim Committee Task Teams

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In the beginning of my term as Vice-Chairperson, we decided on 4 task teams to run throughout our term. These included:

- (1) Visual Identity Task Team
- (2) Constitutional Appraisal Task Team
- (3) Financial Task Team
- (4) Crisis Management Task Team

After opening up applications last year, and due to the change in need in and around campus, myself and the Prim Committee Executive Committee decided to re-evaluate the task teams and their mandates for the upcoming year.

The task teams that will be working throughout this year to fulfil their mandate include:

- (1) Constitutional Appraisal Task Team
- (2) Crisis Management Task Team
- (3) Recreational Task Team
- (4) Residence Development Task Team

Each Task Team has a mandate that was determined by the Task Team itself and a short description of each Task Team can be found below:

Constitution Appraisal Task Team

[PRIMS ONLY]

In terms of section 101(5) of the Student Constitutions, the Prim Committee has the responsibility to ratify student community constitutions, regulations and rules, or amendments thereto, and must establish a committee for this purpose. This team will be tasked with advising communities in respect of constitutional matters and ratifying constitutional amendments to Residence and CSC constitutions. It will further be required to draft any additional rules or regulations necessary for the effective functioning of the Prim Committee, except where a separate task team has been established for this purpose.

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Crisis Management Task Team

The mandate of the Crisis Management Task Team will be to draft a document for the management of crisis situations in student community spaces. The team will liaise with the relevant stakeholders, such as the Centre for Student Life and Learning (CSLL) and other relevant stakeholders on procedure and processes around crisis to offer guidance on how to manage crisis effectively.

Recreational Task Team

[PRIMS ONLY]

The primary objective of the Recreational Task Team is to ensure the recreational wellbeing of student leaders, mainly focused on Prims, but can extend to House Committee Members. This task team will be key to planning these offerings and coordinating the facilitation thereof.

Residence Development Task Team

The mandate of this Task Team is to help with the development of Residences on campus. Residences present distinctive conditions and challenges within their spaces. This task team aims to encapsulate the challenges within the space and translate it into resources that aid communities to form healthy traditions, break stereotypes and build a welcoming community. The main deliverable will be the Residence Strategic Conference. This task team holds the residence community at its core and will aid in the translation of valuable practices, tips and skills between residences.

5. House Committee Dance

The Prim Committee hosted a dance for all house committee members. The dance was a huge success and members were able to forge closer relations between the different student communities. The theme was 'a fairy tale dream come true' and the costumes that the house committee members came up with was enjoyable to see. Majority of the house

committee opted for a team outfit. This was a night where the house committees and Prims could relax and be present after a busy welcoming period.

6. Prim Committee Meeting with the Municipal Council

The Prim Committee attended a meeting with the Executive Mayor of Stellenbosch, as well as members of the Municipal Council on the 19th of March. This meeting allowed for collaboration between the student communities and the municipality. It was a fruitful engagement and a Prim Committee meeting took place after the engagement in the Municipal Council Chambers.

7. Wilgenhof Welcoming Plan

The Prim Committee Executive Committee, as well as the SRC engaged with rectorate during the welcoming period to be proactive in the Wilgenhof Welcoming Plan. We would meet with the Wilgenhof House Committee at the end of every day in order to discuss the day that had occurred, and the following days plans as well. As an Executive, we attended most of Wilgenhof's Welcoming Programme and ensured that any areas of concern, were addressed. As the Vice-Chairperson of the Prim Committee, I supported Andri, the Chairperson and Residence representative, in the execution of the Wilgenhof Welcoming plan.

Plans for Next Term

1. CSC StratCon (10 May)

The next CSC StratCon is set to take place on the 1st of May.

2. Task Teams

The Task Teams will continue their meetings and mandates until it has been fulfilled.

3. Matie Shop Engagements

Further engagements with the relative stakeholders will be held. The next meeting is scheduled for the 16th of April.

4. Stellenbosch Open Day

Stellenbosch will host their annual open day on the 20th of April.

Kind regards,



Courtney de Klerk

Vice-Chairperson