

## Term 3 Report

### SRC CHAIRPERSON

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## Constitutional Responsibilities

According to the student constitution by constitutional responsibilities are the following:

### Chapter 4: Section 28.1

- a) Serves as the chairperson at meetings of the SRC and SRC Executive Committee.
- b) Acts as spokesperson of the SRC, in consultation with the Communications Officer.
- c) Is responsible for the finances of the SRC alongside the SRC Executive Committee.
- d) Ensures that the SRC fulfils its mandate.
- e) Is responsible for oversight over the activities of the SRC.

## Portfolio Overview

SRC:

- The main responsibility of the Chairperson is to put the interests of students first, distinguish between people's self-interests and what benefits the student body and SRC.
- To be the face of the SRC. Representing the students and the institution with dignity, honour, and pride.
- Overseeing that the finances of the SRC are used ethically and responsibly.
- To be the spokesperson of the SRC.
- Making sure that the SRC fulfils its mandate, thus holding members accountable.
- Represent the SRC with the Secretary General in DHEST Ministerial stakeholder engagements, SAUS, etc.

## Committees/Task Teams

I serve on the following Committees and or Task Teams:

- 1) Council
- 2) Institutional Forum
- 3) Council Language Committee

## DSAf Self-Evaluation:

### Description:

The DSAf Self-Evaluation Process seeks to assess overall performance, identify strengths and weaknesses, and develop strategies for improvement of DSAf. The committee included representatives from each body in DSAf including Student Governance, the Centre of Student Communities and Centre for Student Counselling & Development and the Centre for Student Leadership, Experiential Education and Citizenship. As a member of the committee my role was to submit input on the process of self-evaluation bring in a student prospective on the performance of DSaf

### Successes:

#### DSAf Self-Evaluation and Reflection Committee Meetings:

- During the meetings we discussed using previous Student Affairs benchmarking reports as a guide to create a template for a self-evaluation process.

#### DSAf Student Satisfaction Survey:

- This survey was created by members of the committee to gain input from students on their satisfaction of the function of the DSAf. The survey sought to clarify whether students fully understood the function of DSAf and what improvements could be made within the division. As a member of the SRC I assisted in drafting the questions asked in the survey and the distribution of the survey.

### Shortcomings:

#### Postponement of DSAf Self-Evaluation Process:

- As chair of the Self-Evaluation process Dr Choice took the decision to postpone the Self-Evaluation of the division to the next year. Some of the reasons for the postponement for the process is the merge of the CSC and CSLEEC. Additionally, the division would like to take into account the Khampepe Report recommendations and the role their implementation play in the functioning of the division during this year.

## DSAf Management and SRC (EC)

### Description:

The DSAf Management and SRC (EC) meetings were centred around gaining information and clarity on matters arising on campus affecting students. Often these meeting involved going over the agenda points that would be raised in rectorate meetings.

### Successes:

#### Tygerberg Shuttle

- An agenda point worth noting is the request from the TSRC chairperson for a shuttle to made available for students participating in extra murals and who have classes between Tygerberg campus and Stellenbosch. This point could not be resolved by members of DSAf thus the point was raised as an agenda point to Prof Stan in a Rectorate Meeting. Unfortunately, the project could not be executed due to limited funds and drivers available to transport small numbers of student. There needed to be a greater demand from students to make the project and institutional initiative.

## LSAL Summit

### Description:

The LSAL Summit is an in-person and online course students can participate in that allows them to hone and develop their leadership skills. As an alumnus of the program and SRC Chairperson I had the honour of assisting in the planning and creation of the program. Some of the work I was involved includes the drafting of the LSAL 2023 objectives, selection of panel speakers for the in-person summit, the creation of the Call to Action for the online material, the designing of the LSAL Summit program and the finalization of the LSAL purpose statement.

### Successes:

- The Program was successfully completed by our given deadline.  
The in-person summit is set to commence on the 29 of July.

### Shortcomings:

- Some of the meetings were during my assessment period thus I felt significant pressure and strain to keep up with the meetings and the submissions required from me for the online LSAL program. Nevertheless, the video and descriptions were submitted for the use of the online program.

## DSAf Student Satisfaction Survey

### Description:

The Student Satisfaction Survey falls under the work for the DSAf Self Evaluation Committee. The chair of the DSAf Self-Evaluation committee requested that a separate committee be created centred around the creation and compilation of data from a student satisfaction survey. In this committee I assisted in the drafting of questions for the survey and the distribution of the survey to students.

### Successes:

- The survey was successfully compiled and distributed to students. At this stage we are awaiting the results and findings of the survey.

### Shortcomings:

- The DSAf Self Evaluation Process has been postponed to the next year thus our work as a committee has come to a halt.

## General

### **SRC Meetings**

As per Section 28 Point 1a. I serve as the chairperson at meetings of the SRC and SRC Executive Committee. All SRC Meetings were held in residence spaces to encourage students to attend meetings and to increase SRC visibility.

### Shortcomings:

- As SRC meetings had returned to the SRC Boardroom there was little to no incentive for student to join the meetings in-person. Having the meetings in their residence spaces made the meeting more accessible in that they were closer to where they stay (this not to say this did not have its own limits). However overall student turn-out to SRC meetings were very low.
- Decorum of some of the SRC meetings were not up to standard. Often rules of engagement were not followed with members disrupting others as they spoke or having private conversations during the meeting. This made chairing meeting difficult and made conversation and resolutions challenging to follow.

### Points of improvement:

- There ought to be a way to better incentivise students to join SRC meetings such as making it a requirement that student leaders join at least one SRC meeting per term. This will allow at least the student leaders to have greater knowledge of what is happening on campus even if some may believe a challenge does not necessarily affect their community.

## **DSAf and SRC (EC) Meetings**

Executive meetings were initially held to speak about the management of the SRC however because of the rapid incidents occurring on campus.

## **Monthly Meeting with Pieter Kloppers (CDC)**

These meetings functioned as check-ins on the Centre of Student communities.

## **Monthly Meeting with Rector Vim de Villiers**

The monthly meetings with the Rector act as a follow up on what are going on main campus that might be overlooked by the Rectorate. I would allow SRC members to submit point for me to raise with the rectorate. These meetings often resulted in work being sent back to specific offices thus, as a point of improvement – whenever a point to be raised with the Rector there needs to a follow up with the relevant office and whether they are aware of the point and has taken it forward.

## **South African Union of Students & SRC Forum**

Description:

The South African Union of Students is a forum of universities across South African aimed at giving universities access to providing input on the policies drafted by DHET. As a result of the actions taken by the leadership of SAUS in expressing their support of the NSFAS accommodation cap and direct payments – some universities branched off to create the SRC Forum in hopes of rectifying the actions of NSFAS and DHET themselves. This forum was established on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May and has since grown in the number of universities that have joined the forum.

Successes:

- The Forum staged a march to the NSFAS offices to express their rejection of the Direct payments and had over a memorandum of demands. The march was successful in that the students

that joined the march were given personal assistance from NSFAS officials with their appeals and applications.

#### Points of Improvement:

- The forum does not have a voted in chairperson or secretary – thus often meeting lack structure and meetings do not have adequate minutes. This has proven to be a challenge because sometime institutions are not on the same page. Additionally, if an institution misses a meeting, they have to relay on other colleagues to explain what was discussed.

## Extraordinary Meetings

### Motion Against SRC (EC)

The Secretary General, Treasurer and the Policy Officer filed a motion against the SRC Executive team. This motion was filled because of who was selected as the Chief Electoral Officer of the electoral commissioner as well as the dissatisfaction with the process the executive team chose to fulfil the constitutional mandate of selecting a commissioner. The motion was ultimately dismissed, and the selected Chief Electoral Officer has continued the work required of the Electoral Commission.

### SUNCom Meeting on Food Prices

Students raised the view that the process at the Call Order Bars and at the stores at the Neelsie are unaffordable for the average student. Particularly students on the NSFAS scheme expressed concern that the prices were often too high for them to maintain their food allowances throughout the year. I thus have a meeting with the Hein Swanepoel from SUNCom to explore possibilities of lowering food prices and including more affordable stores in the Neelsie. During this meeting it was noted the reasons for why the food prices in the Call Order Bars and Neelsie are a result of the free-market approach SUNCom makes use of when taking on vendors. There needs to be greater regulation on the pricing and types of vendors that can set up shop in the Neelsie to reduce food prices.

## April 2023

### 20 April Institutional Project Liaison (IPL) Budget

The portfolio of Institutional Project Liaison required additional funds to fulfil its mandate. Thus, myself, the portfolio holder and a member of student governance had a meeting to discuss the shifting of funds to assist the portfolio. During the meeting it was picked up that there were several outstanding payments and funds that were reflecting in the system. This made it difficult to gage what additional funds could be



given to the Institutional Project Liaison Portfolio. Unfortunately, the SRC treasurer could not join this meeting, so another meeting was held in June was held to try and rectify the issue. For future it is advisable IPL is one of the first portfolios to receive one of the higher allocations of the SRC budget as their projects include huge institutional events such as the Rectors Awards and the SRC inauguration.

### 25 April Gradline Discussion

In the past Gradline had a relationship with the SRC whereby they assisted students with job searches and life after graduation. This meeting sought to rekindle that relationship and investigate ways to better support students in search of work post-graduation.

## May 2023

### 16 May Creative Expressions Evening

The Creative Expressions Evening is an annual event held by the Drama Department in collaboration with the CSCD and Student Wellness. My role for this even was to open and close the event.

### 24 May Engagement with WC SRCs hosted by the Deputy Minister DHET

The deputy minister of Higher Education came to Stellenbosch university to speak on his budget and engage generally on the role of SRCs in higher education. A poster had circulated online encouraging students to address the minister on the issues they had been experiencing with regards to NSFAS. Thus, the minister brought along an NSFAS official to assist students with their queries. Additionally, I gave a presentation detailing all the ways in which the decisions made by the minister and NSFAS had been negatively affecting students lives.

### 31 May Mostepe Foundation Exploratory Meeting on Food Insecurity at South African Universities

The Mostepe Foundation hosted a meeting with South African universities to better understand the challenge of food insecurity in campuses. During this meeting I gave a presentation on how SU handled food insecurity and the challenges we continue to face in supporting students struggling with food insecurity. Additionally, the meeting was helpful in that I gained insight on what initiatives SU can implement that other institutions have successfully made use of.

## June 2023

### 22 June Siyakhula Workshop: Decoloniality Dialogues with Prof Kopano Ratele

This workshop provided insight on the Khampepe report and how to incorporate ideas of decoloniality into SU spaces. During this workshop I learnt about the importance empathy plays in social justices and

how student leaders ought to work more on supporting one another in order to have a greater impact on students.

## 24 June SU Pride Walk

This was the first Pride Walk held by Stellenbosch University. It was a great honour and pleasure to have been apart of the walk around town and the celebration of LGBTAIQ+ people. The walk concluded with a workshop held by GenderDynamix on how to file cases against people in the case of rights violations.

## July 2023

### 10 July Consultation meeting regarding the preliminary SRC General Election Timetable

This meeting gave the SRC Executive team to give input on the timetable of the SRC elections.

## Plans for Next Term

### **General:**

The general duties and meeting remain the same for my second term.

### **Personal Goals:**

#### Enhancing Student Engagement during SRC Elections:

One of the primary goals of an SRC chairperson could be to increase student engagement and participation in campus activities and decision-making processes. This can be achieved through promotion of candidates during SRC meetings and discussions on the value of voting in the incoming SRC.

#### SRC Handover Process

- When the incoming chairperson takes over, I would like to have a personal handover with them if they allow. This is something I did not have at the start of my term, and I believe it would have

been helpful to be guided on what to expect as chairperson and what to expect outside of the constitutional duties required of me.