



**Stellenbosch**

UNIVERSITY  
IYUNIVESITHI  
UNIVERSITEIT

**SRC**

Students' Representative Council  
Ibhunga elimele abaFundi  
Studenteraad



## SRC 2024 TERM 3 REPORT

### Secretary General and Leadership Development

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## Mzwakhe Bolotina – Secretary General and Leadership Development

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### Foreword

Dear Maties,

I am eternally grateful to the student body for allowing me to find my voice within the corridors of Stellenbosch University. I remain steadfast in my dedication to the struggles faced by those who came before me and our generation.

I appreciate the opportunity to represent your concerns in the Admin B chambers. The third term in the SRC has been centered on student advocacy, both within institutional committees and on the ground. This term has been rich with advocacy efforts, from calling for a ceasefire in Gaza via the Senate to marching in solidarity with Palestine and promoting humanity, raising election awareness on our campus, and managing the SRC's administration.

I kindly request that you read my report detailing the actions and achievements of your Secretary General during this third term. I also ask that you hold me accountable for any areas where I may not have met expectations.

As always, I am committed to advocating for you, empowering you, and providing unwavering support throughout the remainder of my term.

Yours sincerely,

Mzwakhe Bolotina

## Constitutional Responsibilities

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**According to the Student Constitution, the Secretary General has the following responsibilities:**

As per section 28 (3) of the Student Constitution my role/duties as the Secretary-General of the SRC includes:

- Being responsible for maintaining internal communication within the SRC.
- Being responsible for managing knowledge and institutional memory within the SRC.
- Being responsible for ensuring that SRC meetings, and any other meetings or consultations where the SRC require record-keeping, are properly recorded.
  - Being responsible for updating, safekeeping, and making available records, recordings, policies, and other documents of the SRC, subject to the internal rules of the SRC.
  - Being responsible for providing the Student Imbizo Convener and Speaker of the Students' Assembly with a regularly updated document detailing which all institutional committees and the names of all SRC Members are there should there be any update.



## Portfolio Overview

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Within the SRC my role as the Secretary-General is to maintain internal communication within the SRC, this means ensuring that there is effective communication on all communication lines (Email, MS Teams and WhatsApp etc.) and ensuring that SRC members are well informed on all relevant information. My role further includes coordinating General SRC and SRC Executive Committee meetings and to ensure that the necessary documents for these meetings such as Agenda's, Minutes and any other additional documents are made available. My role also includes proper recordkeeping of these meetings.

I am also responsible for drafting statements. On an institutional level, my role is to ensure the availability of all the updated SRC records, reports, agendas, minutes, policies, etc through uploading them onto the SRC website to maintain institutional knowledge. My role on an institutional level also requires me to coordinate SRC (and SRC Executive) meetings with staff such as the Management of the Division of Student Affairs and the Stellenbosch University Rectorate and to also ensure proper recordkeeping of these meetings.

On a national level my role as the Secretary-General is to serve as a representative of the university at all designated meetings of the South African Union of Students (SAUS) and to ensure that the outcomes of these meetings are well communicated with the SRC. My role further includes liaising with the SRC's of various other institutions in South Africa to ensure that there is sharing of valuable information and effective communication between universities.

## Committees/Task Teams

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*I serve on the following Committees and or Task Teams:*

### **South African Union of Students (SAUS)**

South African Union of Students (SAUS) is a students' structure that was officially launched in April of 2006, led by President: Yandisa Ndzoyiya, Secretary General: Lukhanyo Daweti and three members in their executive. SAUS aims to consolidate and strengthen students' view in the governance and enhancement of Higher Education and Training in South Africa. They are committed to building a unified, equitable, non-sexist, non-racial, democratic and well governed education system that is appropriate and responsive to the needs of South Africa, Africa and the world and which provides a conducive environment for learning, teaching and research and community service.

They believe that education, through excellence in learning, teaching and research and community service, must positively respond to the needs of both students and the economic, social, cultural and political development imperatives and needs of our country, region, continent and the world. Their objectives are to promote the development of an education system that provides equity of access, opportunity and outcomes and positively responds to the needs of both students and economic, social, cultural and needs of our country, region, and continent. All 26 public universities form part of this Union. It is a very powerful platform if used correctly.

It is important to note that it is a very political space. So, if you are not one used robust engagement you will not like the space because you simply will not understand how comrades behave. I strongly believe every institution should be affiliated to this union because the engagements held there are extremely important. And you form relations with other institutions where crucial knowledge is shared.

### **Senate:**

The Senate is responsible, and accountable to the Council, for the academic and research functions of the University. It regulates learning, teaching, research and academic support functions at the University, and makes recommendations to the Council in respect of policies concerning academic matters.

*saam vorentoe · masiye phambili · forward together*

### Senate Library Committee

- The committee did set for the first time and I raised the student's issues with the committee specifically on the plans to extend the library hours as to the shuttle hours and that there must be coherence with the two. However they have redirected my advocacy to the Director of the library services and I am certainly going to engage with her before the end of the term. I have also in my capacity will speak and advocate for such initiatives as they are the core of our student success.,
- The committee will have a meeting before the end of my term and the date will be shared later on.

### Bursaries and Loans Committee

- The bursaries and Loans Committee has also set and extensive deliberations were made on the NSFAS bursary scheme and we also learnt that the cap was lifted to 50000 rands per annum. We also made submissions on the way the nsfas system is working and we also enquired about the meal quota issues and we engage the committee with robust arguments and we are still going to sit sometime in august.

### Overview of the Term 3

I made submissions regarding the closure of the Wilgenhof men's residence to the designated email provided by the institution's council. In my advocacy efforts, I emphasized the importance of converting Wilgenhof into a co-ed residence rather than closing it entirely. This suggestion stems from our understanding that the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) is currently facing an accommodation crisis, and we anticipate needing additional space to support students by January. My submission included a proposal to rename Wilgenhof, honoring those who fought and died for inclusion and diversity at the university, thereby giving the residence a progressive and inclusive identity.

As Secretary General (SG), I have ensured that rectorate meetings occur monthly, with the agendas and minutes of the Student Representative Council (SRC) meetings consistently posted online on the university's website. I have actively participated in various student activities on campus, such as the Palestine march and supporting the call for a ceasefire in Gaza, both through institutional committees and by being present on the streets of our campus. We have kept students informed about upcoming SRC meetings through our Instagram pages and the website, ensuring transparency and active communication.

By taking these steps, I aim to address the immediate accommodation needs while fostering a more inclusive and responsive university environment. My involvement in campus activities reflects a commitment to student advocacy, ensuring their voices are heard and their concerns addressed at both institutional and grassroots levels.

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## Leadership development, Overview of the Portfolio

This role in the SRC is relatively new, having been established two years ago. The portfolio was created to equip both positional and non-positional leaders with developmental tools and to support all leadership structures across the campus. It also oversees the regulation of student leadership structures within the institution's borders.

During my term in this portfolio, I had a highly engaging experience. I ensured that election campaigns were conducted effectively and sponsored various election dialogues, including but not limited to student parliament talks, to maximize internal awareness among the student body. I had the privilege of hosting the country's Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) at Rooiplein, where they conducted activities to raise awareness among students. Additionally, I worked diligently to ensure that the student body remained committed to voting, practicing their civic duty, and being active citizens.

### Institutional Committees

#### **LDPC (Leadership Development Planning Committee)**

The Leadership Development and Programming Committee (LDPC) at Stellenbosch University (SU) is responsible for ensuring that all student leadership programs are designed to support students. This committee has hosted various meetings where we facilitated the execution of the LSAL (Leadership and Summit for aspiring leaders) program.

The LDPC is committed to developing thought leadership by creating programs that encourage critical thinking about students' roles as engaged citizens, guided by the South African Constitution and principles of social justice, democracy, and citizenship. This includes providing practical training relevant to students' leadership roles.

Additionally, the LDPC is tasked with mapping all student leadership programs to gain a comprehensive understanding of each program, its frequency (to identify peak times in the student leadership calendar that might impact academic activities), and its content. To achieve this, the LDPC must be informed of any new student leadership programs..

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