



STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL  
IBHUNGA ELIMELE ABAFUNDI  
STUDENTERAAD



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# SRC 2021/22 TERMREPORT 3 POLICY OFFICER

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## PHILIP VISAGE – POLICY OFFICER – PVISAGE@SUN.AC.ZA

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## Constitutional Responsibilities

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As the SRC Policy Officer my constitutional responsibilities can be split between the duties imposed on me as an SRC member, a member of the SRC Executive Committee 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 represent students on institutional committees, 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 an Executive Committee member, section 41 and 42 imposes additional obligations. This includes setting the agenda for SRC meetings, managing the day-to-day activities of the SRC, compiling the SRC budget and deciding on portfolio allocations. Finally, I am required to attend weekly meetings.

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

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

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

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

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



## Committees/Task Teams

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### Academic Affairs Council Constitutional Review Committee

This committee was convened by the AAC to review and propose a revised constitution to the AAC. The AAC Vice-chairperson chairs this CRC, and it further comprises of members from the AAC, TSR, and SRC. The Committee finalised its duties and submitted the final constitution to the SRC for ratification. The committee therefore finalised its duties and were dissolved.

### Council

Refer to Vice-chairperson term report 3

### Council Language Committee

Refer to Vice-chairperson term report 3

### Institutional Forum

Refer to Vice-chairperson term report 3

### Student Achievement Committee

Refer to Vice-chairperson term report 3

### Student Achievement Selection Committee

Refer to Vice-chairperson term report 3

### Student Fees Committee

Refer to Vice-chairperson term report 3

### Student Parliament Rules Task Team

In accordance with section 129(1)(c) of the Student Constitution, the SRC must convene a task team to draft the rules for the newly structured student parliament. As Policy Officer I have convened this Task Team. The objectives of the task team are to draft a Constitution for Student Parliament and rules for the Student Imbizo and Student Assembly. The task team will attempt to conclude its duties within the first academic term of 2022. At the end of the first academic term, the majority of the work have been completed. The Task team has however faced numerous delays due to members' unavailability. It is however the goal to finalise and submit the final rules before the end of the next term.



## Term Overview

As is required by the new student constitution, I have to create a repository of student related constitutions. I initiated this process by drafting a memo to all the ex officio structures of the SRC to mandate their constituent structures to provide us with their constitutions. To this date I have received the majority of constitutions and created a database of consistently named constitutions. 88% of all student constitutions are currently in this repository with 18 still outstanding. The process for uploading it to Sharepoint will commence shortly.

Due to an influx in work and reprioritisation of projects, I terminated the process of writing a communications policy for the SRC. Such a project would however not be of utmost importance given the institutional communications policy being developed. I will however hand over the draft policy to the incoming SRC if they would prefer to finish the project.

I was requested to join the AAC's Constitutional Review Committee and assist with their new constitution. This process has been described above and been completed.

I initiated a project to differentiate mandates between the SRC and TSRC's ex officio structures. There is currently considerable overlap and incongruence between these structures' mandates and functions. Preliminary documentation and introduction of the project has been made but due to the extension of the exam period, the only feasible date for the conference was lost. The conference may take place in the next term if a feasible alternative date can be found, otherwise it will be handed over to the next SRC.

I further engaged with the Centre for Learning and Teaching Enhancement on the SU Language policy and the SRC's role therein. The SRC is accordingly required to submit bi-annual language implementation reports to the Language Planning Committee. This has not yet been implemented in the SRC and I initiated a process whereby we will commence to fulfil this duty. A template has been provided and I have consulted with the relevant on staff on the format of our submission. After presenting the proposed content to the SRC, I started working on this report. This report will be submitted in August.

General duties throughout the term included providing ad hoc interpretations of the Student Constitution and other policies as it is requested of me. I reviewed, presented to the SRC, and provided written feedback to institutional management on the following policies:

- Social Media Protocol
- Residence Placement Policy
- Communications Policy
- SU Poster stamping Protocol



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## Plans for next term

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Next term will be spent working on the following projects:

1. Assisting Ex-officio structures with creating their constitutional review committees
2. Interpreting and advising on institutional policies that the SRC are consulted on

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