



STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL
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SRC 2021/22 TERMREPORT 3 SENIOR PRIM COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

saam vorentoe · masiye phambili · forward together

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Constitutional Responsibilities

As an ex-officio member of the SRC my role is to act in the best interest of students and to advocate for their rights as outlined in the Bill of Student Rights.

To do so, I represent students at various committees, structures and functionaries of the university which will be elaborated on under *Committees/Task Teams*. At these bodies, I review and give input on university policy to ensure the rights of the students, which I represent, are at the forefront.

Further, I facilitate projects and initiatives which I believe add value to the student body. Finally, I use my platform to inform the students I represent of the activities of the SRC and in turn also obtain feedback from them, which can be used to advise the SRC on the success of its projects and initiatives. I must attend an SRC meeting every two weeks during the academic term.

As Senior Prim Committee Chairperson specifically, I hold the highest authority on the Senior Prim Committee. I represent the Senior Prim Committee on various bodies of the university and ensure that the committee complies with the regulations of the Student Constitution and the Senior Prim Committee Constitution.

I am responsible for chairing bi-weekly Senior Prim Committee meetings, where the Senior Prim discuss potential policy and regulation changes which could be advocated for the serve residents of senior accommodation at the university. Additionally, collaborative projects and initiatives are also proposed at Senior Prim Committee meetings.

As the Chairperson I am accountable to members and senior accommodation residents to ensure that the decisions taken at Senior Prim Committee meetings are implemented effectively and timely.



Portfolio Overview

The Senior Prim Committee consists of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, and the Prim, or their nominee, of each senior residence, as well as any other members that are provided for in the constitution of the Senior Prim Committee.

Other members provided for in the SPC constitution are the Senior Living Spaces (SLS) cluster convenors and new structures for senior students residing outside of residences – Rubix.net, amaMaties.net and Wimbledon.Net.

The Senior Prim Committee is responsible for representing and advocating for the rights, needs and desires of all students living in senior accommodation at Stellenbosch University. We achieve this vision by meeting regularly to discuss and address critical issues faced by the students that we represent. Further, we initiate collaborative projects to the benefit of our constituency encouraging collaboration between different houses and communities in our space, as well as with the Senior Living Spaces Cluster.

The Senior Prim Committee is also represented at the SRC, through the chairperson. This ensures that the interests of senior students are represented at this platform and that all SRC decisions have considered the impact that it would have on senior students. The SRC also stays informed on the current activities within senior accommodation and vice-versa.



Committees/Task Teams

Senate

- Statutory body of the University that is responsible, and accountable to the Council, for the academic and research functions of the University.
- Senate regulates learning, teaching, research, and academic support functions and makes recommendations to Council.
- Responsibilities include determining the conditions for obtaining qualifications, making rules for academic programmes, making recommendations regarding establishment or reconfiguration of academic structures, and making recommendations relating to the appointment of deans.

Senate Library Committee

- Committee in the office of Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Postgraduate Studies.
- Develop and review policy regarding the Library and Information Services.
- Give strategic input from the perspective of academic interests regarding the Library and Information Service.
- Ensure that opportunities for international collaboration and internationalisation of access to academic information are brought the attention of the relevant role-players.

Student Communities Advisory Committee

- Committee in the office of Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Learning and Teaching.
- Advise DVC on ways to effect coordination between residences, cluster, and hub processes as they align to the University's strategic planning.
- Advise on clusters as an organizing principle for student life, academic affairs, and delivery of services.
- Ensure that University infrastructure enables holistic integration and coordination of all student-related housing, cluster, and hub activities.
- Act as a communication agent and consultation forum for the various divisions involved in the Committee for matters relating to student communities and student housing.

Stellenbosch University Co-Curricular Fund

- Committee in the office of Senior Director: Student Affairs.
- Dispensing financial support for students who seek to improve their co-curricular competencies.
- Includes but not limited to conferences, meetings, workshops, and non-academic exchanges.



Honorary Degrees Committee

- A joint standing committee of Council and Senate chaired by the Rector.
- Request and consider nominations of suitable candidates for the award of honorary degrees and to make recommendations to Senate and Council regarding such rewards.

SU GBV Monitoring Committee

- Committee in the office of Deputy Director and Head: Transformation Office.
- Tasked with developing a University Anti-GBV Strategy that embodies the values of the institution.
- The Anti-GBV Strategy involves preventative initiatives, incident reporting, case management and tracking, mediation, and communication.

Student Institutional Transformation Committee

- Committee chaired by the SRC Transformation Officer.
- Participate in drafting and revising the SU Transformation Plan.
- Monitor and report on the progress of realising the University's transformation imperatives.
- Propose interventions to help the University pursue its transformation imperatives and advise the Transformation Office and the Senior Director: Social Impact and Transformation on transformation matters.

Bridge the Gap Committee

- Committee in the office of Senior Director: Development and Alumni Relations.
- Advise on the fundraising initiatives of various institutional projects that fall under the Bridge the Gap Annual Fund umbrella.
- Promote the #matieshavedrive project which is administered by the Senior Prim Committee and its constituents for the benefit of senior students.

Senior Prim Committee's Constitution Committee

- Committee chaired by an SPC Executive Member.
- Reviews all constitutions, rules, or regulations of house committee constitutions.
- Reviews SPC Constitution every three years.



Term Overview

In the second academic term, I mainly focussed on assisting the SRC and individual Senior Communities with specific issues when it was needed.

This involved being a part of the interviewing process for an electoral commissioner, participating in benchmarking with Walter Sisulu University, attending our SRC's benchmarking trip which compared Stellenbosch University to five other universities based in Gauteng and North West. A detailed report of our findings and recommendations will be drawn up and submitted to the relevant individuals.

I have also engaged in a number of meetings with involving the Postgraduate Office, Director of the Centre for Student Communities, PSO Coordinators and a small number of Residence Heads to explore the possibility of incorporating new arrival postgraduate students that fall under the banner of the .Net Communities in the general welcoming program for newcomers in the beginning of the year. The possibility of organizing a similar program parallel to the existing program has also been discussed.

I am pleased to report that the #matieshavedrive project has proceeded successfully in the second term. The first phase of the project involved opening applications to senior students, screening the applications and commencing the learner's licence tests. Most of the participants have already completed their tests, while others have dates and are ready to be examined. Driving lessons will start in the third academic term, with final driver's tests taken at the end of the third term.

I, along with the Senior Prim Committee, also participated in the joint student leadership sitting on the 19th of May, where it was decided to pursue postponement of first semester examinations, as a direct result of the distress caused by two incidents which came to light in the second term. The postponement was ultimately achieved. We have also committed to contribute to various efforts to address social injustices faced by students at Stellenbosch University which have been started in response to these incidents.

General duties in the term included chairing Senior Prim Committee meetings throughout the term and regularly engaging with the Senior Living Spaces Cluster Coordinator and Resident Heads regarding the takeaways from these meetings. Further, I attended all SRC meetings possible and participated in the various institutional committees as outlined under *Committees/Task Teams*.



Plans for next term

Next term will be spent working on the following projects:

1. Establishing the Senior Prim Committee's Electoral Committee
2. Ensuring that the Senior Prim Committee Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson elections take place.
3. Monitoring the progress of the #matieshavedrive project.
4. Monitoring the planning of the incoming HC training programme.
5. Orientation and handover to the incoming Senior Prim Committee Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.