



Inaugural Address

Today marks the first day in the term of the 2015/16 Stellenbosch SRC. And this serves as the first opportunity to open the dialogue.

Throughout the past year we have seen Stellenbosch University change. We saw students taking their future into their own hands and students uniting behind common goals. But we have also seen a student body divided, unable to communicate and ultimately polarising itself.

That is why we, the incoming SRC of 2015/16, envision a unified campus where innovation, inclusivity and being future focused, ensures student success. Our aim is not to please, our aim is to serve and lead; to create a campus, which welcomes all and challenges ideas.

We hear the voices of those who feel excluded and we are here to listen. We will do our best not to ignore people's personal experiences, but to rather ask what we can do to create a better environment for all. We acknowledge students' daily struggles and commit ourselves to challenging management, keeping them accountable, and revisiting past decisions. Language should not be used to exclude, neither should it be used to divide.

We are firm in taking a stance against any form of discrimination. Your race, language, culture, sexuality, gender or religion should never be used to marginalise you or anyone else. We also know that just saying this is not good enough and therefore we will commit ourselves to fighting all forms of discrimination. We will also commit ourselves to cultivating an understanding between students, because no social sphere of this campus should operate in isolation.

We also wish to thank all student activists for raising important concerns. We acknowledge that we, the SRC, cannot change this campus alone and we view them as important partners.

The SRC for 2015/16 would further like to encourage you, the students, to approach us. We hope that you will see us as your partners and the SRC as a platform for your ideas to be realised. Together we can do more.

Let us keep on challenging one another, asking why and changing the norm. Let us not be afraid of change, but embrace it as a form of self-rejuvenation. Let us all work together, continually listening and continually growing. We, the SRC of 2015/16, are here to serve and to lead - unifying a campus to ensure student success.