



SRC 2020/2021 Term I Report

Jarryd Luyt, Academic Affairs Council, luyt@sun.ac.za

Contents

Constitutional Responsibilities	1
Portfolio Overview.....	2
Committees / Task Teams	2
SRC Executive Committee	2
Senate.....	2
Academic Planning Committee.....	2
Quality Assurance Committee	2
Co-Curriculum Review Committee.....	2
Language Policy Review Committee.....	2
Institutional Committees.....	2
Budget Overview	3
Term Overview.....	3
1. Readmission Assistance.....	3
2. A4's.....	3
3. Academic Guardian Project.....	4
Plans for next term.....	4
1. Registration Campaign.....	4
2. Leadership Development and Training.....	5
3. Social Media Push.....	5
4. Hybrid Learning.....	5
Important Contacts.....	5

Constitutional Responsibilities

As Chapter 6 Section 77 of the Student Constitution states, the Academic Affairs Council (AAC) is responsible for promoting the rights of students in Chapter 2, but more specifically in Section 8(2) for quality education, academic support, and transparent and justifiable assessment procedures. Thus, the curriculum and co-curriculum activities and their intersection falls under the support structure of the AAC.





Portfolio Overview

The AAC focuses on ensuring fair representation within the academic space, while facilitating the strive for academic success and excellence. The council serves as a link between the SRC and the faculties, coordinating and facilitating necessary support and interaction through the chairperson of the AAC who sits on the SRC as an Ex-Officio Member. Its three responsibility areas are Academics, Co-Curricular Activities and Research.

For Stellenbosch University (SU), this leads to the AAC being the main body where Faculty Student Committees (Student Representation at a Faculty Level) can coordinate activities and create a cooperative environment that allows for faculties to interact, and through the AAC, to be represented at an Institutional level.

Within the South African context, the AAC is a body that can actively promote the improvement of higher education systems throughout the country through academic, co-curricular and research.

Committees / Task Teams

SRC Executive Committee

Senate

The highest decision-making body of the University for Academic and Research decisions.

Academic Planning Committee

It is responsible for final decisions revolving around academic planning for the University. It reports directly to Senate. This committee focuses on topics such as new research centres, programme changes and so forth.

Quality Assurance Committee

It is responsible for reviewing every department within the University with respects to the overall quality level. Ultimately recommending adjustments and requesting feedback on such for approval.

Co-Curriculum Review Committee

It is the committee responsible for accrediting co-curricular activities at the University.

Language Policy Review Committee

It exists as a review process of the Language Policy, both for feedback as well as improvement.

Institutional Committees

The Academic Affairs Council Chair holds a seat on the Committee for Learning & Teaching, the Institutional Forum, and the Timetable Committee. These seats have been delegated to members within the AAC and reports from these committees will be curated and collected at the end of the leadership term.





Budget Overview

Academic Affairs Council			Breakdown of Projects						
Project	Note	Amount	Note	Description	Expense Type	Quantity	Price	Amount	
Marketing Material	1	R815.00	1	<u>Marketing Material</u>					
Leadership Development	2	R24,625.00							
AAC Camp	3	R20,000.00		Posters	Printing	1	R815.00	R815.00	
Transport	4	R1,000.00						R815.00	
Honouria	5	R29,000.00	2	<u>Leadership Development</u>					
				FVZS Course	Training	1	R15,625.00	R15,625.00	
				AAC Training	Training	1	R7,500.00	R7,500.00	
				Sign Language	Training	1	R1,500.00	R1,500.00	
								R24,625.00	
			3	<u>AAC Camp</u>					
				Events during camp p/p (4)	Other	25	R800.00	R20,000.00	
								R20,000.00	
			4	<u>Transport</u>					
				To training	Transport	1	R1,000.00	R1,000.00	
								R1,000.00	
			5	<u>Honouria</u>					
				Vice-Chair	Compensation: Internal	1	R9,500.00	R9,500.00	
				Treasurer	Compensation: Internal	1	R6,500.00	R6,500.00	
				Marketing Officer	Compensation: Internal	1	R6,500.00	R6,500.00	
				Secretary	Compensation: Internal	1	R6,500.00	R6,500.00	
								R29,000.00	

At this point in time, we do not have access to our cost centre yet and thus cannot account for any reserves.

The faculty fees are only calculated once registration numbers can be confirmed.

Thus, this budget is designed through conservative estimations focused on waste mitigation and will be continuously adjusted through procedural approval.

Events are in the pipeline as we are awaiting regulation advice and University protocol before committing any of the budget towards such.

Term Overview

The following highlights the term from election (September 2020) to the beginning of February (2021)

1. Readmission Assistance

Due to the exemptions made in 2020 by Stellenbosch University waiving the academic exclusion and in turn readmission process for students registered in 2020, the only students going through the process were students academically excluded prior to 2020.

The main goal was to ensure that students wanting to reapply were aware of the relevant timeline by sharing information through infographics across as many channels of student leadership as possible.

2. A4's

The January (2021) A4s were instituted as an opportunity for students who were restricted in their taking of assessments for first semester examinations due to a range of reasons created by the switch to online learning in 2020.

The second wave of COVID-19 had sprung up in December (2020) and threatened the safety of our students having to travel for in-person exams in Stellenbosch.





This prompted the AAC to tackle the issue on two fronts.

Firstly, lobbying the faculties to convert as many exams to the online space, as a council we were successful with getting about three of the faculties completely online, and a few partially online. Thus, mitigating the number of students required back on campus.

Secondly, campaigning to financially assist those students returning to campus as best we could. In this regard, we were able to negotiate (with the assistance of the greater SRC) food security from the CSCD, as well as proactively spreading supporting information to those who needed it.

We unfortunately could not assist everyone financially, but a few faculties and faculty student committees did do what they could in this regard.

3. Academic Guardian Project

In the 2019/2020 AAC term, there was an issue identified with the community spaces of SU, with a clear information gap present with respect to the institutional academic related issues that students face. The information either does not reach these students (or it does so ill timeously), or we find the student leaders simply not equipped to assist in the matters.

Thus, the initiative was born to pair each community space (all PSOs and residences on Stellenbosch campus) with a member of the Academic Affairs Council. The Tygerberg members sitting on the AAC were assigned to the Tygerberg community spaces. The chairperson of the AAC liaises with the Military Campus when assistance is needed.

The hope is to bridge the gap between the academic and community spaces and ensure all students of SU are equipped with sufficient institutional academic information. The project aims to offer advice regarding academic issues, share institutional information that is academic-related and promote relations between students and the AAC.

This will be the second year of the initiative and we intend to continue the traction created in year one.

Plans for next term.

I. Registration Campaign

With a mostly online registration period, the AAC is set to ensure the period goes smoothly for all students.

Our goal is to identify concerns and proactively address these issues with the Registrar's office and the various departments responsible.





2. Leadership Development and Training

In collaboration with Student Governance, we will be hosting an internal online training weekend at the end of February.

A strategic conference will be hosted for the attendance of the faculty committees to promote potential collaboration and support for the academic space and related events.

We will be in talks with the FVZS Institute to arrange training in the second semester.

3. Social Media Push

The AAC plays a vital role within the student space but we have found that the awareness is lacking.

Our goal is to work on the back of the rebranding of the previous term by pushing a more active social media page, as well as continuous infographics and information that is relevant to students.

Within this push, we aim to resume our Wednesday Live Streams and develop process diagrams to assist students in finding the information they need more efficiently and effectively.

4. Hybrid Learning

With the return to campus imminent, the AAC is prioritising and preparing for the new hybrid-learning space, ensuring that the student body is well represented, and their concerns are adequately handled come the start of classes.

Important Contacts

- Sharine Dowries – sharine@sun.ac.za (Student Governance)
- Thulani Hlatshwayo – thulani@sun.ac.za (Student Governance)
- Anele Mdepa – anele@sun.ac.za (Student Governance)
- Ramone Camolie – ramone@sun.ac.za (Student Governance)
- Gershwin Fritz – gfritz@sun.ac.za (Student Governance)
- Dr Ronel Retief – ronelretief@sun.ac.za (Registrar)
- Ashmind Daniels – ashmind@sun.ac.za (Deputy-Registrar)
- Prof Deresh Ramjugernath – dereshr@sun.ac.za (Vice Rector: Learning & Teaching)
- Kate Roodt – kateroodt@sun.ac.za (Co-Curriculum Coordinator)
- Dr Antoinette Van der Merwe – advdm@sun.ac.za (Senior Director: Learning and Teaching Enhancement)

