



# SRC 2020/2021 Term I Report

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## Constitutional Responsibilities

The Policy Officer is a compulsory portfolio of the Student Representative Council (SRC) constituted by s22(5). The minimal responsibilities of the Policy Officer are constituted by s22(5)a-c, listed below:

1. Ensuring that policy of the SRC and the students is formulated and revised in accordance with s21(7).
2. Assisting the other SRC members in evaluating and giving input in the formulation of University policy in accordance with s21(3).
3. Ensuring that this Constitution is revised and updated when required by this Constitution or when necessary.

## Portfolio Overview

The Policy Officer is mandated with ensuring that s21(7); “to formulate and maintain policy in order to ensure that the SRC performs its functions and duties effectively.” of the Student Constitution.

## Term Overview

### REVIEW COMMITTEE

Members of the Review Committee:

- Yanga Keva
- Philip Visage





- Leone Wilkinson
- Vhudi Ravhutsi – TSR Policy Officer (ex-officio member)

This committee is tasked with ensuring that at the end of the revision process, the following occurs:

1. The production of a comprehensive and better-structured constitution.
2. The eradication of exclusionary language that is used within the constitution.
3. Minimalization of grammatical and spelling errors present within the constitution.
4. Minimalization of loopholes and discrepancies within the constitution.

Additionally, the Policy Officer portfolio is mandated to ensure that SRC and students' policy is formulated and revised in accordance with s21(7) and s21(3).

Following the abovementioned statement, this committee will further:

- I. Conduct a structural and policy analysis on the structures constituted by the Student Constitution as per s3, particularly the following structures:
  - a. Academic Affairs Council
  - b. Prim Committee
  - c. Senior Prim Committee
  - d. Societies Council
  - e. Military Academy Student Council
  - f. Tygerberg Student Council

The Review Committee will have its first meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2020, to appoint an executive committee and plan how to approach the revision and amending of the Student Constitution.

The Review Committee has been meeting weekly, on Wednesday to amend the Student Constitution. As it stands, the Review Committee has amended six chapters of the Student Constitution.

As part of the structural analysis, the Review Committee held meetings on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January 2021, with the structures mandated in the Student Constitution to hear from these respective structures what they believe was essential to the structure and what needs to be added to make the structure more functional and efficient.

These series of meetings had a good turnout, with only the Senior Prim Committee and Student Court not being in attendance.

## **POLICY FORUM**

Is formulated with the policy officers of structures constituted by s3 of the Student Constitution, namely:

1. Academic Affairs Council
2. Prim Committee





3. Senior Prim Committee
4. Societies Council
5. Military Academy Student Council
6. Tygerberg Student Council

The Policy Forum is aimed at ensuring the following:

1. There is constitutional alignment within all structures constituted by the Student Constitution.
2. Providing policy officers with an opportunity to learn about the basics of policymaking and revision.
3. Providing policy officers with the support necessary during an amendment or revision process.

This forum was formed with the aim of offering policy officers with the necessary support when amending or revising a constitution.

The Policy Forum is still inactive because the Review Committee is still busy with amending the Student Constitution. It would be redundant to attempt constitutional alignment when the amending process is not even over yet.

### **TYGERBERG CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW**

The TSR Constitutional Review and the SRC Constitutional Review will be running parallel. A skeletal plan has been provided to the TSR Policy Officer and one has also been received.

Vhudi has been attending some of the Review Committee meetings, as both an ex-officio member and as a representative of Tygerberg, his input and insight has been valuable.

I am also an ex-officio member of the TSR Constitutional Review Committee, there is an attempt to ensure that they are on par with the SRC Review Committee, to ensure that there is alignment when both Student Constitutions are adopted.

### **Plans for next term**

In the following term, I am aiming for the following:

1. Completing the amending process.
2. Holding a referendum to have the constitution adopted.
3. Submitting the adopted constitution to Council as per the Statute.
4. Hosting regular Policy Forum meetings, to ensure that there is constitutional alignment.

### **Recommendations to improve portfolio**

1. The portfolio should be held by someone who has experience with policy work, or someone who is knowledgeable with policy work.
2. Legal literacy should be a required workshop that the Policy Officer attends.





3. Institutional support should be provided to the portfolio holder, to ensure that the Policy Officer is able to uphold their constitutional obligations.

## Important Contacts

A list of all important contacts will be included in my final report as well as my handover folder.

