



SRC 2020/2021 | Term I Report

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Constitutional Responsibilities

The Sustainability & Innovation Portfolio thus far has no constitutionally prescribed responsibilities however, this portfolio is of great importance for the student body for the University to be able to cultivate a culture where students engage with issues of sustainability and which areas the Stellenbosch University has made progress in its effort to create a more sustainable institution.

As managers are constitutionally required to attend one meeting per term, I attended all the SRC Meetings and trainings that were held virtually on Microsoft Teams.

Portfolio Overview

The role and function of the Sustainability and Innovation portfolio is to broaden student engagement (campus community) and knowledge on issues pertaining to sustainability & innovation. It also





investigates protecting our natural environment, human and ecological health, while driving innovation and not compromising our way of life.

For the year 2021, this portfolio is responsible for creating a socio-ecologically aware and involved student body, especially regarding the sustainability principles and initiatives already undertaken by SU. Furthermore, it is responsible for the encouragement and facilitation of increased innovation and sustainable practice by the SRC, student body and University as a whole.

As a proponent for student innovation, it seeks to work with the Launch Lab to generate entrepreneurial ideas from students which are aimed at socio-ecological challenges in their respective contexts.

Vision

In line with the SRC's vision of productivity and student success: we strive to build and operate a healthier, more innovative, and more sustainable campus community.

Our mission for the portfolio is for it to serve as a vehicle for increased student awareness and engagement of issues pertaining to sustainability, both in their university context and beyond.

In addition, the Sustainability portfolio should foster a process whereby the University maximises on its efforts to be environmentally conscious and eco-friendly. In this case, my goal is moving towards a system of digitising submissions of student assignments as the University currently contributes to the unsustainable use of paper at a mass scale.

Also, exploring the scaling up of recycling initiatives by the University, and use of the recycled material, by encouraging more students to deposit their used notes is of concern.

Furthermore, it envisages the continuation of the support of students' innovation capabilities through collaboration with Launch!US. Such innovation capabilities would ideally be directed at relevant challenges, in the universities or surrounding community, which the students' efforts seek to address.

Committees / Task Teams

Currently, I solely serve as Sustainability & Innovation Manager for the Student Representative Council.

Budget Overview

No funds were used during the first term as everything was done virtually at no cost.

Term Overview

As mentioned under Constitutional Responsibilities, as Sustainability Manager, I have attended all the required SRC Training and meetings held virtually via Microsoft Teams.

No office shifts were completed as the country was under lockdown.

Challenges

There was no proper handover-takeover event with the previous manager.

- It was hard to find her.
- When I finally reached out, she seemed uninterested in having the conversation (I informed Kira about it)





- I only managed to get hold of her report and nothing else which made it even harder to navigate through the whole process.
- I believed it would have been better to integrate her unaccomplished endeavours and the new ideas I had together than just piling on new ideas on top of the ones that are pending.
- Hopefully, this can be corrected next time.

So far in Term 1, I have achieved all my goals as set out in my planner. I undertook the following activities:

Term One Goals

- Enhancing student access to information on sustainability through our social media pages.
- Raising awareness on sustainability & innovation issues using our social media platforms.
- Introducing our plans to our maties community.
- Networking with the relevant stakeholders who will help in implementation of our vision and mission for 2021.

Headings are broad descriptions of areas of concentration.

Enhancing Student Access to Information through our Instagram page:

- **Create Content:** aimed at increasing students' access to info regarding SU initiatives to be environmentally conscious and sustainable.
- **Challenge:** due to the COVID-19 pandemic, students are very concerned with the current global crisis thus efforts to promulgate student engagement on issues of sustainability was not as effective as we anticipated.
- **Improvement:** improve our advertising strategies to reach bigger audiences through. I intend for this content to be incorporated into Die Matie, SU Social Media pages, Emailed Newsletters etc.

Plans for next term.

Overall Goals

To groom an informed and engaged campus community on sustainability and innovation issues. Moreover, see at least 25% of the campus community being involved in awareness campaigns and practicing sustainability everywhere.

Term Two Goals

- Increase participation in our awareness program and bringing together entrepreneurs on campus.
- Harnessing the power of collaboration through active support of our colleagues like EcoMaties and UNASA

Enhancing Student Access to Information:

- Distribute content to aforementioned parties.
- Commence planning for Orientation Week (which will take place at the end of February)

Other Green Initiatives

- Student notes to be recycled: find out companies/businesses can treat the paper and repurpose it - check for prices, sponsorships, and potential uses for recycled paper.





- Send out information of “Notes Recycling Drive” - Collab with Bib on their notes drop-off initiative.
- Send out brief to Student Reps with regards to spreading the word about depositing their notes in the bib
- Gather information on the Food Waste system of all university campuses and explore feasibility of integrating all campuses in the food waste management system. As currently, only the Stellenbosch, Tygerberg and Bellville campuses make use of the food waste management system.

Innovation

Liaise with LaunchLab regarding IdeaSmash and explore involvement of the Sustainability portfolio in this established activity.

Recommendations to improve portfolio.

This portfolio can be improved through the building of a network of contacts which will be able to assist with the various initiatives and projects which are being embarked upon.

Recruitment of an engagement coordinator will take place in the second term to assist with campaigns and events preparation.

Important Contacts

- Christine Groenewald clgroenewald@sun.ac.za / +27823260470
- Allister (IT Hub Manager): allister@sun.ac.za / 021 808 4367
- SU IT assistance: help@sun.ac.za / servicedesk@sun.ac.za
- Pius Illah (Launch!US co-founder & LaunchLab): 0780346975 / pius@launchlab.co.za
- Christi Wiechers (Innovus): christiwiechers@sun.ac.za
- Sandra (Sustainability Week – Belgium): sandra@sustainability-week.org

