



SRC 2020/2021 Term 2 Report

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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.

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Expenditure so far

Academic Affairs Council		R32,970.65									
Project	Note	Amount	Breakdown of Projects								
			Note	Description	Expense Type	Quantity	Price	Amount			
Leadership Development	1	R9,200.00	1	Leadership Development							
AAC Camp	2	R473.00		FVZS Course	Training	1	R625.00	R625.00			
Honouria	3	R14,750.00			Training	5	R925.00	R4,625.00			
Merchandise	4	R8,547.65		AAC Training							
Faculty Collaborations	5	R3,000.00		Lunch	Refreshments	26	R75.00	R1,950.00			
				Speaker Gifts	Compensation: External	10	R200.00	R2,000.00			
								R9,200.00			
			2	AAC Camp							
				Picnic Social	Refreshments	1	R473.00	R473.00			
								R473.00			
			3	Honouria							
				Vice-Chair	Compensation: Internal	1	R5,000.00	R5,000.00			
				Treasurer	Compensation: Internal	1	R3,250.00	R3,250.00			
				Marketing Officer	Compensation: Internal	1	R3,250.00	R3,250.00			
				Secretary	Compensation: Internal	1	R3,250.00	R3,250.00			
								R14,750.00			
			4	Merchandise							
				Golfer	Merchandise	25	R133.29	R3,332.25			
				Hoodie	Merchandise	5	R314.53	R1,572.65			
				Brim hat	Merchandise	25	R98.33	R2,458.25			
				Peak cap	Merchandise	25	R47.38	R1,184.50			
								R8,547.65			
			5	Faculty Collaborations							
				Lab Coat Drive	Internal Transfer	1	R3,000.00	R3,000.00			
								R3,000.00			

Leadership Development

The option was given to AAC members for FVZS short course sponsorship, some have opted to take up a short course, while others have indicated their interest for the second semester only.

The AAC Training consisted of a two-day online seminar aimed at targeting the various requirement of the approved co-curricular. Speakers were thanked with gift vouchers and members given meal vouchers.

AAC Camp

Due to concern over COVID, the budgeted camp was turned into various smaller socials and team builders.

The picnic served as our first in-person meet and greet earlier this term.

Honoraria

The executive members received their half year remuneration for service to the AAC.

Merchandise

All merchandise was finalised, collected, and in the process of being distributed.

Plans for next term

Wednesday Lives

With schedules settled in, the continuation of the fortnightly Wednesday Lives will ensure engagement on relevant topics within the academic success space.

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All lives hold valuable information which can be found on our Instagram page. (@accstellies)

Process Diagrams

With the constant increase of information, one finds themselves often afloat from what they are looking for, the AAC has set itself the task of closing this information gap by creating simple yet effective process diagrams to assist both students and student leadership structures in navigating the academic grievance space.

Leadership Development

Anti-burnout/Team Management

Student leadership often puts strain on the mental health of the individuals with the structures. The leadership of the AAC is planning of having sessions to try combat this excess strain, and attempt to assist the faculty committee leadership to do the same within their own ranks.

Diplomacy training

With constant requirement to communicate with management and staff, student leaders within the AAC structure have requested training on how best to navigate these interactions. Potential training will be investigated, and in turn planned.

Collaborations

With the spark ignited, the AAC leadership hopes to see more initiatives between our various faculty committees over the next term.

Exam Campaign

Exams being one of the big items coming up on the calendar, the AAC aims to initiate an “exam preparation week”, focusing on motivational tips, resources, and various other methods of assisting students in the non-academic side of exam preparation.

Employment Development Initiate

In collaboration with the Leadership Development Portfolio of the SRC, the AAC will be organising a series of sessions, activities, and resources aimed at assisting student’s preparation for employment.

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)

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