

HALF YEAR REPORT | VERSLAG

2020 | 2021



TYGERBERG STUDENT COUNCIL

Universiteit Stellenbosch

Chairperson

Compiled by

Kristin Arends

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INTRODUCTION TO PORTFOLIO

The Tygerberg Student Council Chair serves as the highest institutionalized representative of the Tygerberg Student Union. The TSR Chairperson, as the CEO of the Tygerberg Student Council, similarly chairs the executive committee of the TSR. The TSR chairperson also forms part of the Stellenbosch Student Representative Council as an ex-officio member.

In my capacity as chairperson, I serve on the Faculty Board, the Dean's Advisory Committee on Transformation, the Advisory committee for Tygerberg Student affairs, The Undergraduate Academic check in meetings (formulated during COVID times to discuss academic problems) and a new DSAf Anti-GBV forum. I also represent the needs of the Tygerberg students at DMT or Rectorate meetings.



TSR VISION AND MISSION

The TSR of 2020/2021 strive to be a united body bound by the values of accountability, transparency, and inclusivity, striving to empower the Tygerberg Student community in an intentional manner.

We aim to do this by enhancing our presence and advocating for the Tygerberg Student Community on both a micro and macro level by communicating strategically, prioritising continuity and project completion.



PORTFOLIO OBJECTIVES

- To amplify the voice of Tygerberg Students across the institution by working closely with the Rectorate and the Deans Management Team.
- To empower all members of the TSR to infiltrate spaces within the university's management and to increase their circle of influence, to advocate for Tygerberg Students to the best of their capability.
- To improve the visibility of the TSR on campus by working with other student leadership bodies as well as non-positional leaders.
- To promote transparent and accountable governance.
- To improve the relationship between the SRC and the TSR.
- To be a proponent of social justice on campus as well as within my circle of influence in society at large.



PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE

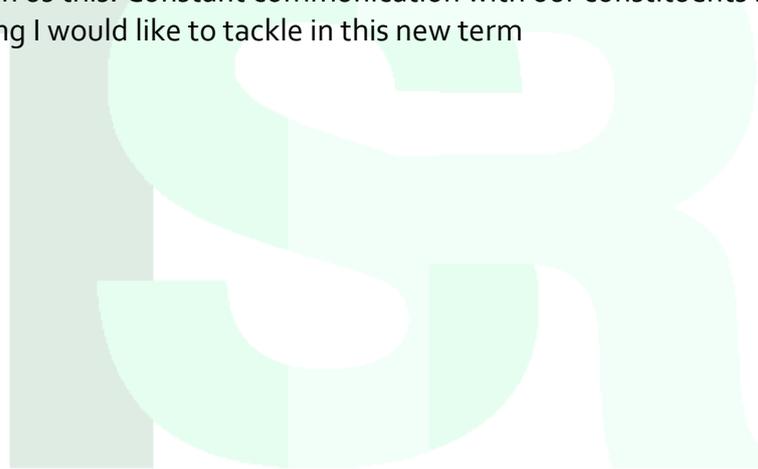
Kristin Arends	Chairperson	
Tshiamo Ngcobo	Vice-Chairperson	
Nikita Heneke	Financial manager	
Puleng Mokoena	Secretary General	
Vhudi Ravhutsi	Student Community Needs, Policy Unit Chair, additional member	
Hugh Seton	Sport	
Dharshana Moodliar	Green and Sustainability	
Abdul-Mutakabir Aziz	Student Facility needs	
Kamva-Qama Tambekile	Strategic communication	
Luyanda Nzama	Tygerberg Prim Committee Chairperson	
Lynette Classen	Tygerberg Societies Council Chairperson	
Mbali Mkhonza	Tygerberg Postgraduate Council Chairperson	
Jess Davies	Tygerberg Academic affairs council chairperson	
Queren Kamuanya	Student Wellness Portfolio manager	
Sonia Muchiri	Kopano and Prestige Portfolio manager	
Amore Arends	Culture Portfolio manager	
Vanessa Dede Annan	Student Development Portfolio manager	
Realeboga Mothupi	Social Justice Portfolio manager	

REASONS FOR STANDING

I ran for TSR for a second term because I believe in continuity. I also believe that I have gained a lot of insight into the inner workings of the university. I am now familiar with most of the systems and policies that govern the university, and I have a clearer idea of how far my influence extends and what my limitations are.

The TSR has been working tirelessly to serve Tygerberg Students. Countless projects are rolled out, but student involvement in campus activities continues to plummet exponentially. This made me question how much of what we do as the council ends up being what the students who we represent want us to do for them? How are we addressing the needs of our students on campus when very little of our time goes into consulting students, but goes more into admin and planning events?

An important thing I have also noted is that the climate on campus is ever-changing, and what one had planned in January won't necessarily be what needs to be addressed in June. COVID-19 has shown us this. Constant communication with our constituents is important and that is something I would like to tackle in this new term



RESIDENCE LIAISON

I am very excited to have been allocated to Osler PSO as their residence liaison. I came up with this idea because I really want the TSR to be more visible on our campus. I want the students to know that we are working hard for them. In this role, I will be required to attend a house committee meeting every two months and provide structured feedback to the Osler house committee who will then hopefully take the feedback I give them and add it on to their “announcements” that they send out to their constituency. My hope for this is that the students come to realize the work we are putting in to solve their problems and what we are doing to advocate for them. As a residence liaison, I will also have to attend an Osler PSO and give formalized feedback to the Osler PSO on the activities of the TSR.



YEAR PLAN PROJECTS

1. SRC meetings and socials
 - a. Repeat project
 - b. September 2020- September 2021
 - c. As an ex-officio of the SRC, I will be requiring transport to the meetings to represent the Tygerberg students there, I also want us to have socials with the SRC so that we can foster a good working relationship to serve the students.
 - d. SRC, TSR
 - e. Budget received from SRC

2. Campus engagements
 - a. Repeat project
 - b. January 2021- August 2021
 - c. This is a project aimed so that the TSR is more in tune with the Tygerberg student union. Monthly engagements will be held at the different residences so that we can talk about issues that affect us as Tygerberg students and what the TSR can do to assist. I think this will be especially helpful for the newcomers so that they can get a sense of what we do as the TSR and how we can serve them. This is part of my big visibility plan of action
 - d. House comms, TSR
 - e. R3000 for refreshments at each engagement

3. Leadership courses
 - a. Repeat
 - b. Jan 2021-August 2021
 - c. This project aims to empower the students outside of the curriculum with courses that build them up as individuals and enough them to grow out of their comfort zone. The FVZS courses have broad and diverse topics such as facilitative leadership, health and leadership and many other courses for personal development.
 - d. Student development portfolio manager, FVZS.
 - e. R10 000

4. Complaint and suggestion box
 - a. Repeat project
 - b. Jan 2021-August 2021
 - c. This is a project that the previous TSR chair wanted to start so that we can have a better relationship with the Tygerberg Student Union and we can understand their needs better. As previously mentioned, we often focus on projects that we want to implement, without even considering what the TSU wants. This compliant and suggest box with a TSR stand in the TSS will hopefully solve that problem.
 - d. Strategic communication TSR member
 - e. R3000 for a TSR banner, branded paper, stationary and a tablecloth

5. Chat to the DMT
 - a. Revised project from 2018

- b. Jan 2021-August 2021
 - c. My goal with this project is to bridge the gap between the students and the DMT by trying to bring them to the students at lunchtime for a "open chat". I want to arrange for the DMT to be available at a lunchtime once a month, to just chat to the students and hopefully with this, the feeling of being distant from the Faculty management can be alleviated.
 - d. DMT, TSR
 - e. No budget required
6. Data project for TSR members
- a. New project
 - b. As needed
 - c. In the digital age that we are living in now, especially since we are at our homes without Maties wifi, it is important that we have a budget set out to assist TSR members with data so that they can fulfil their duties to the Tygerberg students without data issues getting in the way. A separate data proposal will follow on as an addendum to this project in my year plan.
 - d. TSR Financial manager
 - e. R10 000
7. Shuttle Proposal
- a. Continued project
 - b. Feb 2021
 - c. This is a project to get a night shuttle up and running on the Tygerberg campus in the same way there is a night shuttle on the Stellenbosch Campus. We have already started the groundwork for this project with the Rectorate and transport services and we also want to work on advocating for a free mall shuttle service for the students of our campus.
 - d. Transport services, Rectorate, Anele Mdepa
 - e. No budget required
8. Registration
- a. Repeat project
 - b. January 2021
 - c. The goal with this project is to advocate for the students of Tygerberg to receive the benefits of the SRC registration campaign. (Register all). The SRC registration campaign is to assist students to register (not just STb students, all students) and therefore I will use my role on the SRC to advocate for the Tygerberg students to assist them with the registration process.
 - d. SRC/TSR
 - e. No budget required

HALF YEAR PROJECT FEEDBACK

September

- TSR inauguration- This was part of my duties as the previous TSR vice-chairperson. This involved planning the event virtually, recruiting a guest speaker, coordinating a gift for the guest speaker, collecting TSR photos for the memories slideshow and coordinating the oath taking section of the inauguration.
- Recruiting student leaders to sit on certain committees. With the change of student leadership terms, the previous student leaders no longer sit on certain committees anymore. Their roles needed to be replaced by the new TSR members and it was my duty to provide the names of the TSR members who would sit on those new committees. This included the Advisory committee for Tygerberg Student Affairs, The FMHS Health Committee, The DACT and the DSAF transformation charter sub-comm.
- Interview with Sue Sugar for FMHS website explaining my vision for the year as TSR chairperson.
- Cluster oath-taking- I attended this ceremony as the TSR to acknowledge the oath taking by the house committees of the Tygerberg cluster. This was a very heart-warming event as the HKs really do so much for our Tygerberg Students.
- Managing emergencies- I attended this virtual training on “Let’s talk managing emergencies” by Dr Munita Dunn-Coetzee which was very informative.
- TSR/DMT introduction- We held this event in September just for the DMT to meet the new TSR and to learn about our new portfolio changes and just to meet the TSR. It is important for us to meet with the DMT regularly to ensure good reasons between the Student representatives (TSR) and the faculty management.
- I was involved with the TSR evaluations as part of my duties as the previous TSR Vice-chairperson
- September was also the month where we had our Student Governance training sessions and set our vision and mission for the year as the new TSR.

October

- ICBC trainings for student leaders
- I attended bi-weekly Undergraduate academic check-in meetings to provide the perspective of the students in the academic planning for 2021.
- Recorded a video for the “Maties 101” recruitment process to retain the selected applicants to the FMHS to show them that this is the institution they should choose, speaking about the Role of the TSR.
- Khayelitsha Theft incident- Students were robbed at knife and gunpoint on their way to Khayelitsha hospital and the TSR assisted in getting support for the students who

had been traumatized by that event as well as getting support for students who have lost/ had their belongings stolen from them in this incident.

- Portfolio manager interviews- The TSR exec sat and chose 5 new portfolio managers for 2020/2021
- I attended a Faculty Board meeting in my capacity as TSR chair.
- Year plan and budget setting- This was a major portion of our time as the TSR exec in October, November and even December. Finalizing the budget to ensure fairness and sustainability was our priority.
- Annual conversation- I attended the annual conversation of Hippokrates but I could not attend the others.
- Registration workshops planned by student governance. Very unhelpful and a Tygerberg specific registration “meeting” with Farah and her team would have been more fruitful for us.

November

- DACT meeting- Several issues regarding the work of the equality unit was raised and a subsequent meeting was held.
- Equality unit meeting held- Follow up in Feb
- Action for inclusion- I joined the hike with the previous SRC chairperson, Prof Thuli Madonsela and the TSR transformation officer, Vlwwe Kobokana in hiking up Table Mountain to raise funds for students with historical debt.
- DSAF anti-GBV steering committee- this committee held its first meeting in November to discuss their terms of reference and the scope of the work that they would do as a steering committee. This will continue in 2021 and I will continue to represent the voice of the Tygerberg Students.
- A second DMT meeting was held in November where we discussed the possibility of having an open door/lunchtime chat slot with the DMT to be made available for students to be able to talk “more freely” to the Faculty management. Follow to occur in 2021.
- 2021 return to campus support queries- responded to an email regarding which services students would need to be available to be resumed as soon as students return to campus 4 January. This did not prevent the chaos of the first day however and students remained frustrated that the management did not seem “prepared” to have students come back to campus.
- TSR evening proposal- drafted a new shuttle proposal just for the evenings and sent it off to Dr Choice who gave a positive response early December. This proposal is intended to mimic the service provided by the Stellenbosch campus for their students in the evenings.

December

- MB, ChB VI pledge ceremony issues. Worked with prof blitz to solve the issues of final year medical students being SEEMINGLY discriminated against because they had a supp and therefore could not attend the pledge ceremony, however the pledge ceremony was anyway converted to a virtual platform due to the 2nd wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Adjusted level 3 and return to campus- several issues arose with the last-minute communication from faculty (3 days after the level 3 announcement) and student communities telling students who had flights and buses pre-booked not to come back to campus due to the adjusted level 3 restrictions. This caused lots of distress amongst the students but through advocacy we managed to ensure an amicable situation for all and no student was denied access back to res provided they adhered to the strict COVID-19 protocols set out by student communities.
- Register all- Worked very closely with the SRC to ensure Tygerberg students can benefit from the SRC register all campaign and to avoid any registration issues which could hinder their dreams.

January-April

- Registration and Register All- This was a campaign run by the SRC to assist students with 1/3 of their first registration instalment. As TSR chair, my role in this campaign was to forward all queries that land up in my TSR chair inbox to the student debt working group or to the Register All task team. We also came to an agreement that should the number of Tygerberg students that need to be funded exceed what the Register All campaign can fund, then the TSR would pool funds from their reserve on a case-by-case basis to assist students. We only had one student who was successfully by the Register All campaign, but we had many Tygerberg students who were referred to the student debt working group for review. The Tygerberg registration period in January was also met with many challenges and through collaborative work of our TSR members, we engaged with our faculty and DMT to work through some of our difficulties. We set up a survey to gather the perspectives of students and presented the findings to the relevant staff members.
- Welcoming queries- My TSR chair email address served as a way for students to get answers to queries by successful referral to the relevant university staff member who deals with the issues. This included issues of accommodation, food, admission and bursaries and loans.
- Dean's welcoming and first year onboarding program- Because of my position as TSR chair, I was invited to give an address at the Dean's welcoming online event and to provide a video for the first-year pre-welcoming onboarding program. This aligns with one of my portfolio objectives of being the face of the TSR and representing the Tygerberg students through external relations.
- Constitution Review Committee- As part of my TSR chair duties, I form part of the policy Unit of the TSR. The TSR constitution is being completely reviewed and with my institutional knowledge, student leadership experience and guidance from the policy unit, this is a task that has kept us extremely busy in the past term.

- FMHS undergraduate vaccine rollout- This is a new task that I took on alongside the TAAC chair and Abdul Aziz, the student facility needs TSR member. We advised our vice-dean of clinical services and social impact on the best way to proceed with the rollout. We also assisted with getting students registered on the FMHS vaccine rollout app and with acting as a vessel to answer the queries of the students regarding the vaccine process.
- External representation of Tygerberg- In the past term, I executed this duty by being a speaker at the MGD Social Impact Colloquium hosted during welcoming. At this online event, I presented our main focus as the TSR which has been our social justice work with our Anti-GBV advocacy. I also represented the voice of Tygerberg students at the DSAF Transformation summit as a student panellist at the summit.
- TSR Honorary president- Given the term of our current TSR honorary president, Prof Julia Blitz coming to an end, as well as her term of vice-dean of learning and teaching coming to an end, we had to find a new TSR honorary president. The TSR came up with a list of candidates whom we would like as our honorary president and Prof Blitz also added her suggested candidates n the list, the TSR then voted for their favourite and the candidate with the most votes was approached to be our TSR honorary president this turned out to be Dr Jenny Edge, a breast and endocrine surgeon and a member of the faculty's anti-GBV task team as well as someone involved in Transformation matters at the institution. She agreed to be our honorary president and we are so honoured that she took up this position.
- TSR Leadership courses- The money for this project came from my budget but was managed by the TSR manager for student development. We have paid for students to partake in FVZS short courses to improve their academic transcript and allow for extra-curricular expansion of the students.
- Tygerberg evening shuttle service- After submitting a proposal to the Division of Student affairs in December for a night shuttle to mimic the offering on the Stellenbosch campus, the service finally started in March. The duty of the TSR is now to advertise to students and to ensure that they utilize the service otherwise the service will be cancelled. We also are responsible for evaluating the factors why the offering is not being taken up by the students and possible solutions.

NEW OR REDESIGNED PROJECTS

1. TSR office and boardroom renewal proposal

New Project

The TSR office is in a bad state. It has not been updated in a while and it is a space which causes frustration for the TSR members who find that this is not a good space in which we can do our TSR duties. We find it embarrassing to bring people to the boardroom or office to have meetings because the place is so substandard. We also want to arrange for wifi in these spaces as there is currently very poor connectivity.

We also need to do a complete clean of the office and to get rid of any rubbish lying around and digitizing all the old TSR documentation in the office

Timeline

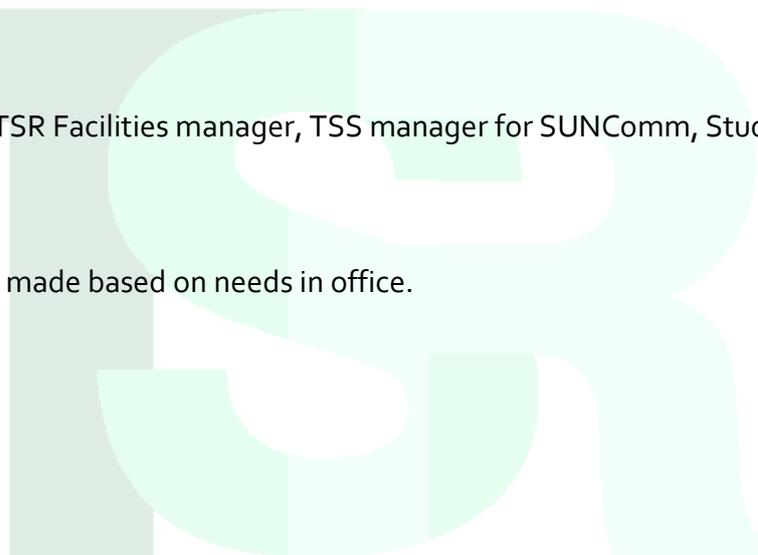
June 2021-September 2021 for the write up and discussion of the proposal with student governance.

Roleplayers

TSR vice-chair, TSR Facilities manager, TSS manager for SUNComm, Student Governance.

Budget

Quotation to be made based on needs in office.



INCOMPLETE PROJECTS

9. SRC meetings and socials

- a. Repeat project
- b. September 2020- September 2021

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- c. SRC, TSR
- d. Budget received from SRC

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- d. House comms, TSR
- e. R3000 for refreshments at each engagements

3. Complaint and suggestion box

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- b. Jan 2021-August 2021
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- d. Strategic communication TSR member
- e. R3000 for a TSR banner, branded paper, stationary and a tablecloth



CANCELLED PROJECTS

1. DMT lunchtime chat to students

This project was designed to try and make the DMT more relatable to students by arranging for the DMT to engage with students to at lunchtime at the TSS. I think this project has merit, but I don't foresee that we will be able to pull this project off in this TSR term as we are all currently so overwhelmed with our duties and projects. I have decided to take the burden off myself with this project by cancelling it and by suggesting it to the next TSR chair as we will probably have some significant changes to the DMT with the term of Prof Volmink and Prof Julia coming to an end therefore the students will probably want to meet the new DMT members to find out their plans for the students.

2. Data project for TSR members

In the digital age that we are living in now, especially since we are at our homes without Maties wifi, it is important that we have a budget set out to assist TSR members with data so that they can fulfil their duties to the Tygerberg students without data issues getting in the way. A separate data proposal will follow on as an addendum to this project in my year plan.

R10 000 budgeted- unused and project cancelled because of all the TSR members who have returned to campus. The money has been utilized for part of the work of the student community needs portfolio.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Project	Approved budget	Amount spent	Budget credit
Monthly campus engagement	R 3 000,00	R -	R 3 000,00
Rain Data Project	R 10 000,00	R 3 161,00	R 6 839,00
TSR Scribe	R 4 000,00		R 4 000,00
Complaint and suggestion box	R 5 000,00	R -	R 5 000,00
Leadership courses	R 10 000,00	R 2 500,00	R 7 500,00
			R -
			R -
			R -
			R -
			R -
TOTAL	R 32 000,00	R 5 661,00	R 26 339,00



DIARY

N/A



HALF YEAR SUMMARY

The past 3 months have been a challenge, but I have managed to fulfil the plans I had set out to do and to I still have many things I want to achieve in the last few months of my TSR term. I am to give it my all. The projects where I have felt I succeeded the most were the shuttle proposal, the external relations I did such as representing the Tygerberg students at the social impact colloquium and the transformation summit and the contributions I made during registration. The project I am looking the most forward to moving forward to is writing up the TSR office proposal. I think this will benefit many future TSR members and I am happy to do the groundwork.

