



SRC 2020/2021 Term 2 Report

Ayesha Abou-Zeid, WAQE, ayshaabouzeid@sun.ac.za

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Constitutional Responsibilities

The current Student Representative Council as it stands does not make mention of specific responsibilities of the Women and Queer Empowerment council member. However, submitting planning and budget documents has allowed for responsibilities to be set out for the WAQE Council Member. These include but are not limited to:

- empower the women and queer bodies of Stellenbosch university (Empowerment must be all encompassing and as such should occur on a policy, educational, engagement, and social level and take place on both a staff and student level within the institution).
- Empowering the leaders of the institution to create a safe and inclusive space for these individuals.
- Wellness needs to be an integral part of the empowerment of women and queer bodies and wellness includes a physically safe and inclusive environment, that allows for the physical and mental health of these bodies to be catered for.

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- Intersectionality must be considered throughout all processes. Certain groups within the women and queer communities alike are more vulnerable and should therefore be specifically and purposefully empowered.

Portfolio Overview

This portfolio has only existed as WAQE for one term previously and is thus in its infancy: given the groundwork that was started last year part of the vision of this portfolio is to continue to lay this foundation for the leaders and students to come. It must also be recognised that women and queer bodies have been largely neglected by staff and student leadership alike since the establishment of this institution.

Women and queer bodies have been the subject of many types of discriminations throughout the world and Stellenbosch University is no exception. This discrimination often leads to students being excluded, has a negative impact on their mental health and ultimately leads to a fractured student community. The purpose of this portfolio is to actively combat this discrimination where it exists on a managerial, policy, staff, and student level and to create a university community that truly reflects our values of Stellenbosch University.

Values:

- Inclusivity
- Compassion
- Accountability
- Respect
- Excellence
- Equity

Committees / Task Teams

This year there was no opening of a committee, as due to COVID19 many of the events were cancelled. However, one of the objectives within the year plan of WAQE was to open a Task Team to tackle the issues that Transgendered students face.

Task Team:

The purpose of this task team is to investigate the level of exclusion that transgender students and staff experience and Stellenbosch university. To investigate what the most progressive and inclusive practices are worldwide. To provide recommendations to the rectorate on how to create a more inclusive and safer environment for transgender staff and students in this institution.

The Objectives are as follows:

1. Determine Stellenbosch University's current policies and practises regarding Transgendered individuals.
2. Determine how inclusive the Stellenbosch University environment is for Transgendered individuals.
3. Determine what the most inclusive practises are that tertiary institutions should adopt for the safest and most inclusive environments for these individuals.
4. To compile a report of the above findings.

To propose recommendations to rectorate on how to adjust current policies and possibly instate new policies to adhere to the most inclusive practices.

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Progress of the Task Team:

I have officially completed the application process for the Task Team and have formed the Task Team. However, it has recently come to my attention that the university has opened a working group: Campus and Residence Life and culture review: LGBT+ community Working Group. The objective of this working group overlaps directly with the objectives of the task team and as such I am currently in conversation with the chairperson of the working group to discuss a way forward to combine both of our efforts to meet our shared goals.

Term Overview

Task Team: Details given above

Anti-GBV Protest:

I was made aware of an Anti-GBV Protest that was to take place on the 24th of April 2021, and a request was made to me to organise transport for students from Stellenbosch and Tygerberg Campuses to the protest in Cape Town. The organising of the transport included:

1. Sending a survey out to the student community to ascertain the number of students that would be interested in the transport offered. This survey needed to go to both Stellenbosch and Tygerberg communities.
2. Sending out a poster with all the details about the protest and the transport including meeting times and places.
3. Organising transport vehicles from the vehicle fleet with Sherine, as well as finding a student willing to drive one of the 10 seaters (I drove the second vehicle).

On the day of the protest:

We met outside the Neelsie at 7:45 and made a list with all the students' names as well as their contact details. We then departed to pick students up from Tygerberg Campus and completed the same process. We then departed from Tygerberg and made the journey to Cape Town, attended the protest, and collected signatures from passers-by for the anti-GBV memorandum. We then returned the students to campus and the vehicles to the fleet.

House Committees Check Ins:

The purpose of this initiative was to provide support for Residences and PSOs HC members with regards to how they can continue to promote inclusivity and combat GBV in their communities. This is vital for the safety of the women and queer bodies within these spaces.

House Committees of all Residence and PSO spaces have been reached out to and have been invited to join a centralised platform for all HC members in charge of portfolios involved in either women or queer empowerment. This is a platform where resources, events, and ideas can be shared easily to other communities. This platform has been joined by many communities and is being used for its purpose.

These members of House Committees have also been reached out to, to engage on the difficulties being faced by each community in terms of Women and Queer Empowerment, as well as to engage on the progress that has been made within the communities since the signing of the Anti-GBV memorandums and ascertain where assistance can be given to communities in terms of creating more inclusive and safe spaces. Unfortunately, the response from residences has been disappointing, but a review of the current responses is taking place.

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Students' Representative Council
Third Floor, Neelsie Student Centre
Private Bag X1, Matieland, 7602
Tel: +27 21 808 2757 | Email: sr@sun.ac.za

Additional Responsibilities:

1. Council Representative-attendance of the termly Council meetings and represent students at this meeting.
2. Student Fees- Attendance and representation of students at termly Student Fees Committee Meetings.
3. Review of Residence heads appointment and training- Attendance of weekly meetings reviewing the training and appointment of residence heads.
4. SU Campus/Residence Life and Culture Review-LGBTQI+ Community Working Group- Attendance and participation in the work performed in this working group.

Budget

Budget & Reasoning

1. Critical Engagement:

Amount Currently Budgeted for: 4×R400

Amount Still Needed: 2×R200

I originally planned to host 4 Critical Engagement sessions. I will now only be hosting 2 and the remaining funds may be redirected in the budget.

Planning: There is a session planned for the first week of June regarding LGBT identities and the second one will take place in the following semester.

2. Pride Week:

Amount Currently Budgeted for:

- a. Panel Discussion: R1100

I will no longer be hosting a panel discussion. Instead, I would like to use these funds for an alternate project. I would like to purchase pride ribbons to hand out on the first day on pride week. I would like to request to retain R400 of the R1100 for this project and the rest may be redistributed.

- b. Buses to Cape Town Pride: R4000

The pride festival in Cape Town is no longer taking place and as such these funds will not be used for this purpose. Since the money for the Anti-GBV protest was taken from the WAQE budget, which was R2000, I would like to request that that R2000 be taken from these funds if possible. I would then like to use the remaining funds for transport of Tygerberg students to Stellenbosch so that they may attend some of the events occurring on Stellenbosch Campus during pride week. This will require the remaining R2000.

- c. SexPose: R1500

The SexPose event is currently being planned to take place during the first week of June and as such the funds are still required for this.

3. SlutWalk:

Amount currently budgeted for: R1200

I am planning to host the Slut Walk during the month of August (Women's Month).

4. Task Team:

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Amount currently budgeted for: R 11 040

Unfortunately, the future of the task team is still undecided, but will be confirmed by the 7th of June when comprehensive feedback will be given on the way forward as well as the need for the remaining funds.

Expenditure so far

R2000 for transport for the Anti-GBV protest (details given above).

Plans for next term

PRIDE WEEK

Pride week is set to take place in the week of the 7th of June, as June is international Pride Month. Pride week is a collaboration with the Transformation Portfolio, LLL as well as certain House Committees who opted to be involved.

Day 1:

- a. Pride wall unveiling-this is a project being organised primarily by Viwe and the transformation team.
- b. Safe Space for LGBT+ community. Organised between myself and QueerUS.

Day 2: This will be a Critical Engagement on the Rooiplein. This is a collaboration between me and Critical Engagement HC members, where we will have multiple stalls set up each educating about different sexual orientations and gender identities. I will be organising some pride merchandise for each stall.

Day 3: Pulp Film screening-organised between the transformation committee and QueerUS

Day 4: Sex Education: This will be a panel discussion that will be organised between LLL and myself.

Day 5: Celebration of the LGBT+ community – organised by transformation committee.

Task Team: Details above

Recommendations to improve portfolio

I think to improve the functioning of this portfolio, I need to work on my communication with fellow team members and the people that I will be working in collaboration with. Often due to lack of communication, projects are more stressful than they need to be.

Important Contacts

1. Anele Mdepa (anelemdepa@sun.ac.za)
2. Vuyokazi Hlawatika

vuyoh@sun.ac.za (076 128 4960)

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