



SRC 2020/2021 Term 3 Report

Xola Njengele Chairperson xn@sun.ac.za

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Constitutional Responsibilities

As per Section 22 of the Stellenbosch University Student Constitution 2018, the Chairperson –

- (a) is the chief executive officer of the SRC;
- (b) acts as spokesperson for the SRC;
- (c) is ultimately responsible for the finances of the SRC; and
- (d) ensures that the SRC fulfil their mandate.

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Portfolio Overview

In terms of:

SRC

The portfolio of chairperson is responsible to bring a group of diverse leaders together and channel their energy and skills to successfully achieve the mandate of the SRC. Chairperson is responsible to ensure that words become actions and support members where possible to ensure execution. The chairperson acts as custodian of the Student Constitution. The chairperson acts as spokesperson for the SRC and the students the SRC represents.

Stellenbosch University

The chairperson is a direct line of contact and information for staff and management in the university. Although the chairperson is the students' representative, the chairperson is also a representative of the larger Stellenbosch University. The chairperson's mandate is to ensure that the needs of students are placed first in the university and works in collaboration with different stakeholders such as SU Staff, the municipality, other universities etc.

South Africa

The chairperson's role in terms of South Africa is to act as custodian of the South African Constitution, on ground level at Stellenbosch University. Together with the SRC as a team, the chairperson must drive a vision & mission that are conscious of South Africa's diverse cultural heritage and the historical context of Stellenbosch University and work hard to unite to build a multicultural and democratic South Africa. As the Student Constitution of 2018's preamble states: "We acknowledge our responsibility to participate in the democratic structures recognised by this Constitution. Subject to the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, the Higher Education Act, the Statute of Stellenbosch University and University regulations, we accept this as our binding Constitution."

Committees / Task Teams

- **Council** – see Annexure A
- **Institutional Committee for Business Continuity (ICBC)**
- **Honorary Degrees Nominations Committee** – The committee sat three meetings at which discussions pertaining to the nominations for honorary degrees were held. All

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relevant stakeholders who could submit nominations, made theirs accordingly and the committee discussed the nominations which eventually led to nominations being submitted to the Honorary Degrees Committee.

- **Honorary Degrees Committees** – The committee requested the HDNC to add more nominees for broad diversity reasons. The committee will thus reconvene on the 3rd week of August.
- **Language Policy Revision Work Group** – see the developments at <http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Pages/Language.aspx>
- **Anti-GBV Steering Committee** – *Have not sat in this term.*
- **Student Achievement Committee** – *will sit early September 2021.*

Term Overview

Much of the term was consumed by strenuous academic obligations, however, much SRC related work was completed. The first task for the term was refining the criteria for the leadership category of the Rector's Awards for Excellent Achievement. This task was completed with the guidance of Ms Heidi October as well as other members of the *Student Achievement Selection Committee*. The reason for refining the criteria for this category was due to being too broad in previous years. The refined criteria will allow for the process to be direct and fairer in nature. The applications for the Rector's Awards for Excellent Achievement are due to open in the first week of the second semester.

Currently the SRC is in the final stages of concluding the Student Constitution amendment process. The new constitution was successfully voted for by students, this process was led by the Election Convenors (see *Annexure B*). The Chairperson and Policy Officer are scheduled to make a presentation on the new Student Constitution to the Executive Committee of Council so as to prepare for the final step, that being the new Student Constitution being ratified by Council as stipulated in the university's Statute.

South African Union of Students (SAUS)

NSFAS Workshop

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Gina Sibanda (SRC Student Financial Access) & Monwabisi Petersen (SC Secretary & SRC Registration Volunteer) represented the SRC Chairperson and Secretary-General at this meeting as they both had urgent academic obligations to attend. Both individuals were fully equipped to represent the SRC as they were continuously dealing with student issues relating to financial access. This meeting was called mainly to engage with the NSFAS officials as there were many uncertainties relating to PGCE, LLB (PG), laptops as well as N+2 rule. See *Annexure for detailed feedback of the meeting*.

8th SAUS National Elective Conference

The 8th SAUS National Elective Conference was on 25 – 28 June 2021, hosted at the University of Venda in Limpopo. This conference was in place to elect the new leadership of the structure. The delegates representing SU SRC in attendance were Luigia Nicholas (SRC Special Needs) and Thimna Sotyato (SRC Safety & Security) who attended as voting delegates as well as Vhudi Ravhutsi (TSR Student Community Needs & Policy Officer) who attended as an observer. Both Chairperson and Secretary-General could not attend the conference due to their academic tests scheduled concurrently with the conference. Luigia Nicholas ran for National Executive Committee member and was successful in her contestation. See *Annexure D for detailed feedback of the conference*.

SRC Functionality

The SRC operated well yet again in this term irrespective of the heightened academic obligations in preparation for the examination season. The Pride celebrations organized under the Women & Queer Empowerment and Transformation portfolios was highlight for many students on campus, who also highlighted that it was the first time Pride month was celebrated openly on. The flagship initiative (Mattie2Matie) also continued to flourish with its mandate of providing financial assistance to students and student organizations, even through the third wave.

Half of this term was affected by the third wave of the Covid-19 pandemic which eventually led to change in the alert levels of the country. As such some SRC members had to cancel some their plans with others exploring alternative measures. The volatility of the pandemic poses a threat to the holistic functioning of the SRC however all members have done their utmost best

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to set in place alternative measures that will fulfil their portfolio specific mandates. Overall the SRC functioned well throughout its third term in office.

Budget

Expenditure so far

Chairperson			R1 779,10
Discretionary Fund- Chair	<u>R1 000,00</u>		<u>R1 000,00</u>
Discretionary Funds	R1 000,00		R1 000,00
Member Expenses	<u>R9 200,00</u>		<u>R5 610,69</u>
Personal Secretary	R5 600,00	R3 589,31	R2 010,69
Emergency Meetings Tygerberg	R1 200,00		R1 200,00
Emergency Meetings Military Academy	R2 400,00		R2 400,00
Strategic Meetings	<u>R48 500,00</u>		<u>-R4 831,59</u>
Off-Campus engagement	R48 500,00	R53 331,59	-R4 831,59

Further amendments were made to the Strategic Meetings expense to account for the flights, shuttles and accommodation of the individuals who attended strategic meetings on behalf of the Chairperson. A correction was made to the Personal Secretary expense which previously indicated an amount of R3000 to R3589.31 which accounts for the more accurate amount logged by HR. The amounts for Emergency Meetings in Tygerberg & Military Academy have not been utilized due to the dates of academic obligations not being in correlation therefore limiting time to setup for effective meetings. The amounts may eventually be moved to cover the R4831.59 shortfall under Off-Campus engagement.

Important Contacts

Ms Kira Alberts – kca@sun.ac.za (SRC Vice Chairperson)

Dr Choice Makhetha – choicemakhetha@sun.ac.za (Senior Director: DSAf)

Ms Tonia Overmeyer – toniaovermeyer@sun.ac.za (Dean of Students)

Mr Anele Mdepa – anelemdepa@sun.ac.za (Student Governance: Manager)

Ms Sharine Dowries – sharine@sun.ac.za (Student Governance: Administrator)

Mr Thulani Hlatshwayo – thulani@sun.ac.za (Student Governance: Coordinator)

Ms Ayanda Ntuli – ayandantuli@sun.ac.za (DSAf: Communications)

Prof Deresh Ramjugernath – dereshr@sun.ac.za (DVC: Learning & Teaching)

Ms Heidi October – heidioctober@sun.ac.za (Director: FVZS Institute)

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Annexure A

Communication from Council (meeting of 21 June 2021)

The Stellenbosch University (SU) Council held its second meeting of 2021 on Monday 21 June.

The meeting took place against the backdrop of a renewed rise in COVID-19 infections nationwide, which has prompted government to return the country to alert level 3.

Council expressed its solidarity with SU staff and students, who continue to push ahead in these challenging times. The fact that the University still manages to perform excellently on various fronts speaks volumes for the can-do attitude of its people.

At Monday's meeting, we received management reports and approved SU's 2020 annual integrated report, including the University's consolidated annual financial statements, amongst others.

A big thank you to all SU employees – both academic and PASS staff (professional and administrative support services) – for all their hard work, and all the best to our students for the exams that are currently under way.

Please read on for more details about our meeting.

Best regards and stay safe

George Steyn
Chair: SU
Council

Management report of the Rector and Vice-Chancellor

As is customary, the Rector and Vice-Chancellor, Prof Wim de Villiers, presented a management report to Council. Click [here](#) to read the full version, and [here](#) for the PowerPoint presentation. Highlights follow below.

Record number of qualifications

When contact tuition was suspended nationwide in March 2020 to curb the spread of COVID-19, the University responded by pivoting to emergency remote teaching, learning and assessment (ERTLA). Despite the sudden switch to new ways of working, SU still managed to award a record 9 236 qualifications for the 2020 academic year (March/April 2021 graduations included).

An important part of this success story was the extensive support programme rolled out behind the scenes. With financial support from the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation, the Oppenheimer Memorial Trust and the Harry Crossley Foundation, SU was able to expand its capacity to develop additional multimedia educational material and offer more virtual academic tutoring, mentoring, psychosocial support and technical support to its students.

The SU Language Centre delivered over 1 250 podcast translations to convert English learning material into Afrikaans in support of multilingualism. The Centre also hosted academic skills webinars, produced writing skills videos, provided online reading and writing support, as well as real-time interpreting for deaf students.

Enrolments for 2021

The Rector briefed Council on the University's 2021 enrolment statistics. According to the official

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June statistics, SU now has 32 255 students, which is slightly higher than last year's 31 540. In terms of home language, 47,9% of students have English as their mother tongue, 34,5% Afrikaans, 5% isiXhosa, 7,8% another official South African language, and 4,9% another language. The University has 20 870 undergraduate and 10 577 postgraduate students. A total of 7 763 students are accommodated in University housing. For updated information, click on "About us" > "Statistical profile" on the SU homepage, www.sun.ac.za.

The impact of COVID-19 on schooling

Council noted with concern the COVID-19-related learning losses in the schooling system, as pointed out by ReSEP (SU's socioeconomic policy research group) in their contribution to the National Income Dynamics Study – Coronavirus Rapid Mobile (NIDS-CRAM) survey.

SU is helping to offset this with the Telematic Schools Project, a joint initiative with the Western Cape Education Department. There are 1 300 participating schools countrywide, all of whom enjoy access to quality videos, workbooks and other online content on a zero-rated website. Beneficiaries can watch and access content either from their schools or from home.

The project supports learners and teachers by providing content in 17 subjects in English and Afrikaans. Teachers also receive professional development training in terms of subject content and personal growth.

AUDA-NEPAD Centre of Excellence in Science, Technology and Innovation

SU recently became co-host to one of five centres of excellence (CoEs) of the African Union Development Agency (AUDA) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), namely the CoE in Science, Technology and Innovation. The aim is for the centre to help advance knowledge and science-backed innovations that would support the implementation of the African Union's Agenda 2063.

Set up under a cooperation agreement between AUDA-NEPAD, the South African Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and SU, the centre is ideally located to leverage the world-class Stellenbosch-based science and innovation ecosystem.

Research output

In its annual research output report to the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), SU again submitted a record number of articles in accredited journals, this time in respect of the 2019 publication output year. The 1 596 articles represent a solid increase on the 1 501 reported for 2018.

Financial management amid COVID-19

Council took note of the severe impact of the pandemic on the financial outlook of most institutions, including SU. To date, SU's Institutional Committee for Business Continuity (ICBC) has successfully managed the impact of the pandemic through its work streams, and additional expenses have been funded from the University's Contingency Reserve.

In 2020, COVID-19-related costs and losses to the tune of R108 million were funded from the Contingency Reserve. New and ongoing costs of a further R95,8 million have been funded this year to date.

The University still manages its cash flow cautiously on a month-to-month basis, but the embargo on the use of main-budget reserves for any new activities has been partially lifted. Environments are now allowed to spend up to 5% of their current annual main-budget allocation from main-budget reserves on new ventures.

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2020 annual integrated report and financial statements

Council approved SU's 2020 annual integrated report, including the University's consolidated annual financial statements, at the recommendation of the Audit and Risk Committee.

It was noted that the University had received an unqualified external audit report for its consolidated statements for the year ended 31 December 2020. Council's Audit and Risk Committee also confirmed that adequate internal financial control systems were being maintained and that there had been no material defects in the functioning of these systems during the year.

Council approved SU's going-concern status and expressed the opinion that the University was in a favourable financial position, with sufficient resources in place to continue its operations for the next 12 months.

The approved annual integrated report and financial statements will now be submitted to the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, following which an electronic copy will be uploaded to SU's website.

Discussion about language at SU

Council received reports from its Language Committee and discussed a number of matters relating to language at SU, as summarised below.

Language Policy

SU is revising its Language Policy (2016) this year as part of a five-year revision cycle. Council was presented with the first draft of the revised policy, along with a response report compiled from all 330 submissions, whether by individuals or interest groups, received during the first public participation process.

The revision task team is compiling a second draft of the revised Language Policy, which will take into account the inputs from the first public participation process as well as from subsequent consultations with internal groups and statutory bodies. The second draft will be made available for a second public participation process, which is to be launched towards the end of July. It will also be tabled at the scheduled meetings of the Institutional Forum, Senate and Council in September for further input.

Consult www.sun.ac.za/language for more information.

Deloitte report

Council took note of the Deloitte report on events surrounding the use of language in some SU residences during the welcoming period in March 2021.

Deloitte has found that there was no SU management instruction to prohibit the use of Afrikaans, that residence leaders did not issue a general prohibition on the use of Afrikaans, and that house committee members settled on English during the welcoming period to promote inclusivity, and not to deprive anyone of their Afrikaans language rights.

Prof Deresh Ramjugernath, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Learning and Teaching, briefed Council on the undertakings the Rectorate had made following the Deloitte report. [Click here](#) for more information.

Indigenous languages

Council adopted the following motion regarding indigenous languages: "SU has taken note with concern the Department of Higher Education and Training's classification [of indigenous languages] in the Language Policy Framework for Public Higher Education Institutions (2020). SU

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supports the view that Afrikaans and the Khoe and San languages are indigenous languages. Council requests SU's management to take appropriate steps to engage with the DHET to address this issue."

Social Impact, Transformation and Personnel

This time, the responsibility centre (RC) reporting slot went to Prof Nico Koopman, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Social Impact, Transformation and Personnel. (Click [here](#) to read his full report, and [here](#) for the PowerPoint presentation.)

Highlights from the report include the following:

- **Staff health and wellbeing** remain top priorities. The Rectorate adopted SU's Staff Health and Wellbeing Plan in November 2020, and implementation is under way. An institutional Committee for Staff Health and Wellbeing has been constituted, and progress is being made with the implementation of recommendations flowing from the 2019/20 survey on wellbeing, culture and climate at work.
- The Babin **Day Care** Centre is being supported through a new cooperation agreement, an upgrade to its physical facilities, and a loan on favourable terms to advance its sustainability.
- In the context of managing **COVID-19 in the workplace**, staff have various health and wellbeing [resources and services](#) at their disposal. Moreover, SU encourages staff to get vaccinated, and is working on enhancing access to vaccination sites for employees.
- SU's institutional culture continues to receive priority attention with a dual focus on qualitative and quantitative **transformation**. Transformation competencies of staff and students are being strengthened, and SU's Code for Employment Equity and Diversity and its Employment Equity Plan 2021–2025 are being implemented.
- Council noted both the progress and challenges in advancing universal access at the University, as well as the attempts to recruit staff with **disabilities** for academic positions. The University currently has 607 students and 33 staff members with disabilities.
- Institutional funding of **social impact** initiatives continues amid COVID-19. The US Woordfees, Woorde Open Wêreld (WOW), SU Choir and University Museum are providing innovative programmes in a hybrid format.
- Following an external review of SU's Division of **Human Resources** (HR), its processes are being upgraded. This includes recruitment, performance management, career progression (especially in PASS environments), flexible working arrangements, as well as recognition, incentivisation and bonuses.

Personalia

Council welcomed **Ms Vuyiswa Doo** as a new member appointed by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology to serve until 23 May 2025. Ms Doo, who holds an MSc in Social Policy and Planning from the London School of Economics, is an experienced HR professional who previously served as HR manager of the Allan Gray Orbis Foundation. She is also a former Council member of the University of Cape Town.

Fellow ministerial appointment **Mr Anthony Dietrich** has been reappointed, also until 23 May 2025. Moreover, Council on Monday resolved to reappoint Mr Dietrich to its Language Committee for the rest of the committee's current term, until 31 December 2022.

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The Minister has also reappointed **Ms Ziyanda Stuurman**, for the term 13 July 2021 to 12 July 2025.

Council has reappointed **Messrs Jannie Durand** and **Faffa Knoetze** as members of the Stellenbosch Trust. Their new terms will run until 21 June 2026.

In addition, Council took leave of **Mr Xola Njengele** and **Ms Ayesha Abou-Zeid**, both elected by the Student's Representative Council (SRC). Their term will expire on 17 September 2021, shortly before the next scheduled Council meeting. Council chair Mr George Steyn thanked them for their contributions and wished them well with their studies.

Finally, Council congratulated the following members on their recent publications:

- **Prof Amanda Gouws** (co-editor with Olivia Ezeobi), *COVID Diaries: Women's Experience of the Pandemic* (Graffiti Books). Prof Gouws was also congratulated with being reappointed as distinguished professor.
- **Prof Aslam Fataar** (co-author with Johann Burger), *Skoolleierskap en die Skep van Produktiewe Leerruimtes in Skole* ("School leadership and the creation of productive school learning spaces") (African Sun Media)
- **Ms Ziyanda Stuurman**, *Can we be safe? The future of policing in South Africa* (NB Publishers)

Next meeting

The next meeting of Council is scheduled for **27 September 2021**.



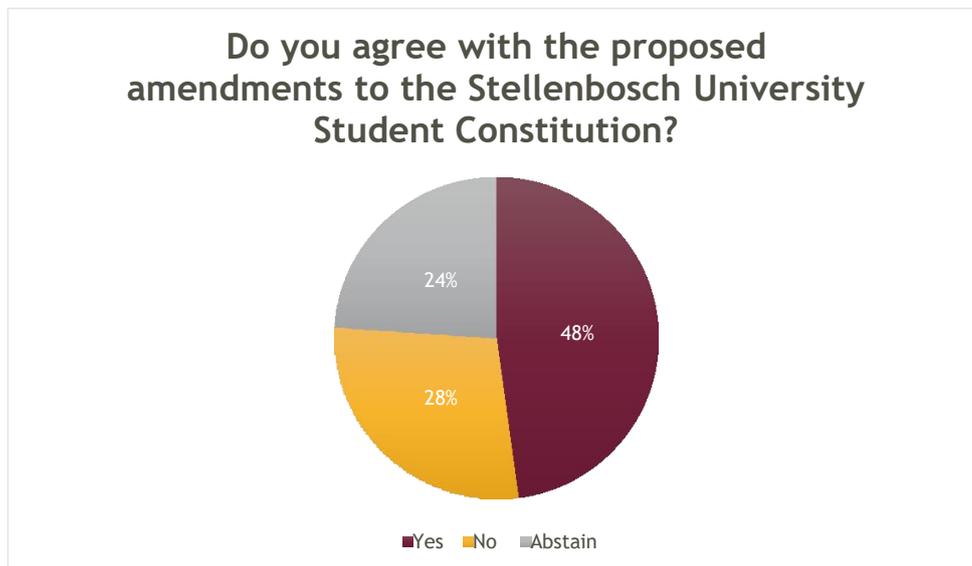
1. Introduction

For the last few months, the SRC for 2020/2021 has been in the process of amending the Stellenbosch University Student Constitution. They have successfully completed this process and in accordance with section 107 of the Student Constitution, a referendum was required to finalise some of the proposed amendments. This referendum took place from 14 to 18 June and the results thereof will be set out below.

2. Responses

The referendum portal asked the following question: “Do you agree with the proposed amendments to the Stellenbosch University Student Constitution?”. A total of 2187 students accessed the referendum voting portal while 439 of those students submitted their vote. The results were the following:

- Yes - 210 votes
- No - 124 votes
- Abstain - 105 votes



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Annexure C

NSFAS Workshop 20 May 2021 - Day 1 & 2

Day 1 Engagement

About NSFAS

- Prior to 2018 = bursary and loan
- Post 2017 = only bursaries
- Recovery of loans
 - Developed and implemented strategies to recollect debt through SARS
 - Engage public sectors for ALL employees
 - Engage private sectors to identify and collect from NSFAS debtors
 - Awareness campaigns to have debtors pay their debt - goal is to reuse these collected funds for new students coming into the system
- Fundraising strategies
 - Private sector
 - Increase funding from SETAs
 - Student-centered model merchant commission
 - Other government departments - i.e. Funza Lushaka
 - Public-Private engagement
- Stakeholder Engagement
 - DHET
 - USAf
 - SACPO
 - SRC
- Dedicated teams
 - For TVETs
 - For Universities
 - For Universities of Technology (?)
- Committees that will engage on how NSFAS is to operate moving forward - in future years
- Offices open Nationwide for accessibility
- Changes taking place on how students can easier engage with the NSFAS reps - chats on the NSFAS site etc.
- Vuvuzela - hotline for any fraudulent or irregular activity with regards to anything relating to NSFAS
- Who qualifies?
 - SASSA recipient
 - Combined household income < 350 000 - post 2018; < 122 000 for pre 2018
 - Permanent resident of South Africa (Valid SA ID)
 - South African citizen
- Students must have cellphone number and email address - if changed, alert/notify NSFAS
 - Information validated by 3rd-parties
- Compulsory documents

Understanding the 2021 DHET Rules and Guidelines

- *Notes taken on the Guideline document.

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General Discussion

- Residence Harassment (being kicked out)
- Data Amounts
 - NSFAS not giving data to students at the moment
 - Whatever data that is being given out is being done by the institutions
- Money Received from private/public sector - what is the sustainability since the amounts recoverable is decreasing year-by-year
- NSFAS Contact Service - No responses/picking up
 - Part of enhancement/advancement that is taking place with reference to the organization
 - Number of models are being developed in order to be able to enhance the student user experience
- Nature of current meeting - what is the use of it - different backgrounds - where are the financial aid officers of the various institutions - the FAOs give the students different streams of information
 - The session is to induct the (new) leadership
- Lack of administrative capacity on NSFAS' side
- What is the overall capacity of the NSFAS funding - student numbers and finance-wise
- Accommodation - universities seem to be implementing their own discretion/policies for accreditation
 - Assessment of the criteria is done by other Departments and the various institutions
- Are there new NSFAS policies for 2021? Is there any synchrony?
- Some University administrations have poor performance - falls down to the student and the student is the one that suffers the consequences
- Turnaround time of the call center is too long - yet students are expected to communicate with NSFAS - consider self-service? Information given is not always accurate
- Student and University management have different amounts of information - is this going to be fixed?
- Use of third-party organisations - some students will have parents that are not in their lives while being "rich", so the student will have a negative impact on funding, even though they don't benefit from the riches of the absent parent - sudden defunding via the SARS verification - no allowance to appeal
 - SARS checks only implemented recently. Before, the information provided is the information that was used
 - The aim is to verify the information provided and to eliminate the risk of fraudulent activity
 - Home Affairs will fetch all the information that is submitted and the information of families is retrieved - from SARS via the ID number entered, through the Dept. Home Affairs.
 - SARS rejections were sent individual emails detailing the process of appealing that decision
 - Contact details absolutely have to be updated when there are changes that are made.
 - Relationship with SARS was solidified in the beginning of the year and disputes were allowed.
- How does NSFAS come up with the N+ rule? - a discrepancy in the calculation - the number of years used by NSFAS doesn't necessarily agree with the actual number of years allocated to the course - students whom started studying in 2016, but did not

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finish, and 2018, but did not finish, and finally continuously studies from 2019-2021 (are they considered from 2016 or 2019?)

- Portal does not move the information when switching institutions.
 - Controls in place to prevent fraudulent activities, to ensure that needy and deserving students are the ones that are funded
- Gap year students whom are re-applying - portal information
- Upfront payment from NSFAS to Universities - now Universities have to pay for students while waiting for NSFAS to pay the institution
- Credit amounts on student accounts - from the partial amounts paid by other bursaries - these bursaries are not the same as NSFAS and they don't carry the same weight
- Defunding of students in the middle of the year - why are they defunded during the same academic year and not the end of the current year - when re-applying, they get funded again
- MOU of NSFAS with Universities - students may not always see marks if NSFAS has not paid the fees
- Capping of 2017 and prior students - 2021 = no payment of the outstanding amount
- Paying of the study fees in installments instead of a lumpsum
- Students whom have a family combined income of above the stipulated amount, yet there are multiple children in the household attending university - affordability check?
 - NSFAS does not make the rules but rather only administers the funding - **address this problem with the DHET**
- Students with unsuccessful application, but no reasoning
 - NSFAS insists that each student that was rejected will always have a reason for rejection. "There is no such thing as a rejection of an application without reasoning.
- NSFAS portal refusing to take and accept login details, such as ID number being "incorrect/invalid" - will it ever be advanced?
- Clarification to students about the difference between an application and a portal profile
- Historical debt - NSFAS insists debt is paid while university says the debt is still there
- NSFAS appeals - takes too long for NSFAS to reply
- Allowances and finding accommodation for transferring students
- Courses with in-service training as a requirement
- Refunding of monies levied by the students - institution does not always refund these monies
- Private accommodation - can NSFAS standardize the payment arrangements? Across all institutions
- How can NSFAS say they work with the SRCs
- NSFAS Act is very outdated (NSFAS still referred to as a loan, for example, instead of a bursary)
- Why is NSFAS still centralized?
 - They have noted that and a task team was started to investigate the correct model for NSFAS going forward

Day 2 Engagement

- Laptops and Study Devices and relevant portal for application
 - Sustainability of the Scheme as a whole
 - NBA for Appeals - N+2
 - Formal submission from SAUS is needed to be taken to the minister
 - “Rural” Universities - far off-campus accommodation
 - Standardization per university is done with the context of university in question
 - Harassment of students by landlords - **already asked yesterday as well**
 - Textbook allowance should not be used for laptops/devices. There should be a different allocation for devices
 - Actually a “learning materials” allowance, therefore textbook and devices fall under the same category
 - Post-Grad Funding and Guidelines - amended/adopted late at expense of students
 - Focus is on the use of the funds available - not beyond that - budget receipt
 - Decision had to be made with the circumstances at hand - lack of funding
 - Decision and conclusion to be made by the 25th of June
 - Students who were unable to apply
 - Portal should be up by mid-June
-

Annexure D

MINUTES FOR THE 8th SAUS NATIONAL ELECTIVE CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE GALA DINNER

Venue: University of Venda Auditorium

Date: Friday, 25th June 2021

Delegates for the Stellenbosch University in attendance: Luigia Nicholas (President) Thimna Sotyato (Secretary-General)

1. Welcoming remarks by the University of Venda Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni

The Vice-Chancellor welcomed everyone present and expressed his gratitude that the outgoing SAUS NEC chose the University of Venda as the location to host the 7th SAUS National Elective Conference.

2. Opening remarks by the SAUS President, Mr Mischeck Mugabe

The outgoing SAUS President welcomed all the guests from the government and various private corporations as well as the delegates present. He introduced the theme of the 8th SAUS National Elective Conference- “Dismantling barriers besetting university entry: Placing SAUS at the centre of creating a sustainable higher education and training sector”.

3. Message of Support from TVET Principals, SACPO President Mr Sanele Mlotshwa

Unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances

4. Presentation on the State of Student Affairs & Governance in the PSET Sector by the SAASSAP President, Dr Sibusiso Chalufu

Dr Chalufu expressed his gratitude for the invitation from the outgoing SAUS leadership to be able to address the delegates and guest present. He noted the need and importance of student affairs structures in public universities to work with student leaders to address student mental health as the rate of student suicides increases.

5. Guest Speaker: Higher Health CEO, Professor Ramneek Ahluwalia

Unable to attend the Gala dinner due to unforeseen circumstances, however, he addressed the conference virtually on Sunday, 27th June after the address by the Minister of Higher Education.

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Prof Ramneek noted that he enjoyed working with the outgoing SAUS NEC and that his office will continue to work with SAUS. He also expressed his concern on the rising rate at which young people in South Africa are being infected by HIV/AIDS and other STIs as well as the serious pandemic that is GBV and teenage pregnancy. Prof Ramneek congratulated the disability unit of SAUS for the tremendous work it has done and the many milestones they have reached in raising awareness on the need of students living with disability in the Higher Education and Training Sector.

Prof Ramneek made mention of various works done by his office:

- Higher Health Toll-free Mental Healthline for TVET colleges and rural universities: 0800 363 636
- With 15000 crisis calls to the above number in the last 6 months, Higher Health has employed 9 psychologists and plans to increase the number of psychologists at various higher education institutions
- Noted that they need to monitor the capacity needed to have South African Higher Education Counselling Units and have direct referral lines for Alcohol and Substance Abuse at the toll-free mental healthline
- He noted that Higher Health needs to work on a guideline Mental Health Policy with SAUS
- With regards to medical aid for students, he noted that this poses a financial challenge and mentioned that Higher Health has started mobile units going campus to campus to provide primary healthcare to students through its community health programme in the system of higher education.
- Higher Health in partnership with SAUS does wellness days for students campus by campus. Here students get free HIV testing and counselling as well as other services. He noted that every campus should have these wellness days.
- He noted that various higher education institutions are introducing a disability curriculum and also mentioned that Higher Health together with DHET and SASSA have created a task team to focus on disability. He encourages SAUS to further strengthen their disability unit with Higher Health.
- Prof Ramneek mentioned that he sent an open letter to the Minister of Higher Education requesting that Higher Education staff members be

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made a priority in the vaccine rollout. This letter has been looked at and he awaits a response.

- Congratulates universities that have taken the role of being vaccinating points.

6. Keynote Speaker: Premier of Limpopo Province, Honourable Stanley Mathabatha

The Premier sent a representative to read a speech he had prepared. He basically echoed his support and well wishes for SAUS to have a successful national elective conference.

7. Exhibitions from various stakeholders

A representative from SANLAM spoke on a future partnership they wish to have with SAUS to formulate an insurance scheme/cover for South African students to tackle student deaths domestically and internationally and other unforeseen circumstances facing students and their families.

8. Closing Remarks & Vote of Thanks by the SAUS Deputy President, Ms Fasiha Hassan

Comrade Hassan was unable to attend the gala dinner due to her commitments with the Gauteng Legislature.

Closing Remarks & Vote of Thanks were then presented by the outgoing SAUS Deputy Secretary General.

9. Toast & Dinner

Dinner was served and all guests departed.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM DAY 1

Date: Saturday, 26th June 2021

Venue: Porche-Villa Hotel and Conference Centre

1. Welcoming Remarks by the SRC President of the University of Venda, Gift Chauke

Mr Chauke was of the view that the national elective conference should be peaceful. He welcomed the fellow comrades to the University of Venda and that with his experience as a bouncer, no disruption nor intimidation will be tolerated.

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2. Official Opening & Political Report by the SUAS President, Mischeck T Mugabe

The outgoing SAUS president officially opened the conference and outlined the rules of engagement as follows:

- The conference is an open session for all delegates to participate
- Members should use cordial language and be respectful towards fellow comrades
- Delegates are to speak only when recognized by the Chairperson when they raise a point of order, motions or proposals.

The SAUS President went through the Political Report. Delegates engaged the Political Report on the following topics:

- NSFAS appeals process
- Student Accommodation
- Youth Unemployment
- Privatization of State-Owned Enterprises

3. Presentation of COVID-19 Protocols and Training by Higher Health Management

Did not happen due to unforeseen circumstances.

4. Lunch Hour

5. Credentials Report presented by the SAUS Deputy Secretary General, Sibusiso Thwala

Delegates need to present their conference tags and ID documents in order to enter the conference venue as well as to vote. In terms of the 21 NEC members, 19 registered. 25 of the 26 SRCs are present with 2 delegates per institution. There are 27 guests and 69 people signed the register in total.

- a. There was a query with the credentials of the suspended DUT president and CUT Bloemfontein.
- b. Rhodes university not in attendance as they said that they will not affiliate.
- c. 23 universities have paid their affiliation fee and UWC and Stellenbosch University are in the process of affiliating and so are recognized.
- d. Both presidents of Bloemfontein and Welkom campus of CUT are recognized and have paid affiliation fully.
- e. The DUT president was suspended as a student of the institution from academic and non-academic activities and thus seized to be a member of the SRC and thus can't be a delegate.

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6. Messages of Support from National & International Student Political Organizations

PASMA

Representative from PASMA spoke in support of the conference and proposed that SAUS redirect itself to encourage institutional management to co-govern with student leadership. SAUS should help Lukhanyo Matenisi with a presidential pardon. The representative also spoke on issues plaguing the students of the University of Fort Hare and the capture of the SRC and that SAUS must refuse to be partisan.

SASCO

Representative from SASCO showed support to SAUS. He also spoke of the inequalities in institutions of higher learning showed by COVID-19 and the inequalities that exist in the country. The representative mentioned that TVET colleges were left behind and need support from SAUS. He spoke in dismay about the death of a civilian in a student protest due to illegal policing. Lastly, he noted that students must be in class and not on the streets, but to do so when it is necessary.

SASU

The SASU Deputy Chairperson spoke about the victimization of student activists and that SAUS should resolve that 'an injury to one is an injury to all'. He was abducted in Zimbabwe in 2019 and was tortured brutally. He spoke of the harsh realities of student leaders in Boko Haram infiltrated Mozambique and students studying in war zones. SASU will be conducting research on political freedoms in partnership with SAUS.

AASU

The representative spoke on how the divisions of our physical boundaries impact us and the future of a border-less and visa-less Africa. He said that we must continue to fight against the existing political challenges. The representative is here on behalf of AASU to celebrate solidarity with SAUS despite the COVID-19 travel restrictions. He said he believes in comrade power and is grateful and happy to be at the conference. He mentioned that he got his visa in a time-frame of just 6 hours through the assistance of the executive committee of SAUS. Lastly, he also mentioned that Ethiopia will issue visas on arrival for African countries through the organisation.

SAVETSA

The representative conveyed his immense support to SAUS. He mentioned that students should not

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be subjected to redundant courses. The representative noted that one is not less of a leader if they are not elected. Lastly, he wished SAUS all the best on their National Elective Conference and that the organization should continue to advocate for the success of students.

NASDEF

The representative connected virtually and said that NASDEF stands in solidarity with SAUS. He mentioned that SAUS and NASDEF will continue working together on an integrated plan to address GBV, student wellness and COVID-19 compliance.

Youth Council

The representative expressed his support to SAUS on its National Elective Conference. He spoke on the importance of electing leaders who act and not those that shout slogans.

7. NSFAS Presentation presented by the Board Chairperson and CEO

The Board Chairperson Ernest Khosa and the CEO Andile Nongongo and members of the board were in attendance and presented an update on the work of NSFAS as of date. They also expressed their support to SAUS on the success of the National Elective Conference. They mentioned their readiness to work with the incoming NEC to continue the working relationship of NSFAS and SAUS.

8. Address by the DHET Portfolio Committee presented by the Portfolio Committee Chair

The representative on behalf of the chairperson attended virtually and rendered a message of support to SAUS. The chairperson was absent due to bereavement at home and sent condolences to students and lecturers in the sector that have lost loved ones. The representative said that they rely on SAUS and other constituencies in order to gather data on what issues to bring to parliament. She also mentioned that UniZulu is going to address the committee and so advises that they engage with the incoming NEC of SAUS and other institutions to have a successful engagement with the committee.

The representative said that the incoming secretary-general should call the secretariat of the Portfolio Committee to engage. She has taken note of the concerns raised by the delegates to NSFAS. She mentioned that the development plans of towns should cater for the infrastructure development of institutions in order to solve the student accommodation crisis. The representative said that more women are needed to build institutions. She mentioned that a 2000 student bed residence was built and recently opened at UFH through the student housing infrastructure programme.

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She noted that the poor governance and deeply rooted reluctance for transformation in some institutions is concerning. The representative mentioned that the Higher Education Act needs to be reviewed and that systems need to be put in place and systems need to be strengthened to protect members of the LGBTQIA+ community and SRCs guilty of GBV need to be looked at.

9. National Youth Development Agency Presentation by the NYDA CEO

The representative apologized for the CEO's absenteeism. He said he was disappointed that the government only acts on issues concerning the youth during Youth month. He echoed his dismay on what is being done with the 3 billion rand allocated. He said he was grateful for the opportunity to address SAUS and wishes the organisation a successful national elective conference.

- a) Question asked to have NYDA offices at the 26 universities.
- b) Question also asked on whether the NYDA can support SAUS financially for its operations.

10. Messages of Support & Presentations from Fraternal Organisations

USAF

Dr Bawa said that USAF will continue to work with the incoming leadership and that he wishes that SAUS conducts a successful National Elective Conference.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM DAY 2

Date: Sunday, 27th June 2021

Venue: Porche-Villa Hotel and Conference Centre

1. Address by the Honourable Minister of Higher Education & Training, Dr Bonginkosi Nzimande
The minister congratulated the outgoing NEC on the tremendous work they have done and expressed the readiness of his office to continue working with the incoming NEC of SAUS. He expressed his support for SAUS to have a successful national elective conference.

2. Organizational Report presented by the SAUS Secretary General, Lwandile Mtsolo

The secretary-general went through the organizational report.

4. Financial Report presented by the SAUS Treasurer General, Maxwell Dyasi

The treasurer-general presented the financial report.

4. Lunch Hour

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5. Commissions Outline by the SAUS President, Mischeck T Mugabe

The outgoing SAUS president outlined the commissions listed on the programme and indicated the venues delegates need to go to discuss the different commissions.

5. Commissions Commences

Delegates went to the respective venues for the commissions.

6. Commissions Report Back presented by the Chairpersons & Scribes of commissions

Did not happen due to time constraints.

7. Nominations for Officials by the Independent Electoral Agency

Candidates for the executive and NEC of SAUS were nominated openly by a show of hands.

8. Voting for SAUS NEC commences by the Independent Electoral Agency

Candidates were voted for by secret ballot in an environment of high security. The process was free and fair.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM DAY 3

Date: Monday, 28th June 2021

Venue: Porche-Villa Hotel and Conference Centre

1. Announcement of Results by the Independent Electoral Agency

President: Yandisa Ndzoziya (M)

Deputy President: Siyathaba Nkonyane (F)

Secretary-General: Lukhanyo Daweti (M)

Deputy Secretary-General: Moses Nkambako (M)

Treasurer: Modiehi Rajonase (F)

Additional NEC members:

- *Afrika Somithi (F)*
- *Dumisa Mputi (F)*
- *Lerato Ndlovu (F)*
- *Aviwe Vilane (F)*

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- *Nomfundo Mbatha (F)*
- *Luigia Nicholas (F)*
- *Ntlonipho Nxumalo (F)*
- *Nonele Ganyile (F)*
- *Mxolisi Ngcapalala (M)*
- *Mphendulo Mfeka (M)*
- *Thabang Tlale (M)*
- *Njabulo Ntshaba (M)*
- *Amukelani Ngwenya (M)*
- *Thato Masekoa (M)*
- *Asive Dlanjwa (M)*
- *Godfrey Molepo (M)*

2. Conference Declarations presented by the SAUS Secretary General, Lukhanyo Daweti

The incoming SAUS secretary-general presented the conference declarations, the record of which may be requested from him.

3. Special Motions presented by the SAUS Deputy President

No motions were raised.

4. Closing Address presented by the SAUS President, Yandisa Nzoyiya

The incoming SAUS president officially closed the conference and assured the delegates that SAUS under his leadership, will continue to advocate for the success of students.

5. Lunch Hour & Departure

6. Departure of all Delegates

7. Media Briefing on Conference Outcomes

Yet to happen.

These minutes have been prepared by myself, Thimna Sotyato, 2020/2021 Safety and Security Manager acting in behalf of Eduard Zehrt as Secretary-General at the 8th National Elective Conference of SAUS.