



# SRC 2020/2021 Term 3 Report

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## Constitutional Responsibilities

The Societies' council consists of all registered and recognised student societies and an additional representative appointed by the society chairperson. This body is the highest decision-making body on all matters that relate to the governance of societies. The Executive Committee of the Societies Council is constitutionally mandated to ensure that the Societies Council is effective and functional. As well as ensuring that all the needs of societies are provided for, it further has the duty to provide regular updates and reports on the activities of the Council.

The Societies Council protects and defends the rights of students and student societies, it also represents the voices and interests of student societies on the SRC governing body and to university management. The Societies Council provides a platform for society interaction and the resources necessary for societies to fulfil their functions, further the

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Council co-ordinates and provides structure to student societies to ensure their success. Societies are vital to the enhanced student experience and contribute immensely to the lives of many students, providing them with a place to fit in, support, career guidance, recreational development, and much more.

## Portfolio Overview

NOT APPLICABLE

## Committees / Task Teams

Societies Council Chairperson

## Term Overview

In the beginning of my term, in 2020, I got elected as the vice chairperson of the societies' council. In this regard and in accordance with the constitution, this entails supporting the Chairperson in all administrative tasks of the council. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of May, which was the second term of our full term, we unfortunately lost our Chairperson and I therefore, in my capacity as vice chairperson had to step up to fulfil all the constitutional obligations of Chairperson and thus all the constitutional obligations for the vice chairperson were then delegated to the Chief administrative officer, Tamara Wicomb.

## 2021/2022 Executive Elections

The 2020/2021 executive term is set to end on the 14 of September but officially at the end of the school 3<sup>rd</sup> term. In this regard, the nominations for the 2021/2022 executive elections were then opened on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June to the 30<sup>th</sup> of June, I received two nominations for the Chairperson and the vice chairperson. The second round of nominations opened from the 5<sup>th</sup> of July to the 13<sup>th</sup> of July which I received one more nomination for the Chief administrative officer. The position of Secretary, Financial Advisor

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(this position is no longer mandatory to be filled with accordance with the newly adopted constitution) and the position of Registrar.

The Chairperson of the Societies' Council automatically is a member of the SRC executive committee as an ex-officio member. This then means that they must meet the constitutional requirements in order to qualify. Unfortunately, the chairperson candidate did not meet the specific requirements and could thus not carry on with his/her candidature.

An executive decision was then taken to appoint the incoming chairperson through the process of interviews as the same process would apply in filling the rest of the vacant positions. This is the decision so far, and it is subject to change. The caucus was scheduled to continue on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August but was however postponed to the 18<sup>th</sup> of August and nominations have been open until the 13<sup>th</sup> of August to the greater campus.

## **Societies' Week**

The entire Council Executive was responsible for this task, and we all contributed in making it possible. The aim of this project was to assist the Societies in gaining membership and having their existence known on campus. The bulk included the work done in securing the Rooiplein and making sure that we follow the Covid rules related to having an event that may attract crowds of students. For this, we worked with the Neelsie booking personnel to put a plan in place, which was then communicated to the Council. In addition to this, we compiled a folder of documents that will assist students and leadership bodies in making it easier to book the Rooiplein, given the context of Covid; this was also sent out to the Council at large. We had to plan the stalls in a manner that allowed for social distancing between each other, also taking into consideration the lines that may also be formed for the individual Societies. The budget for this

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project was set at R10000, but given to Covid, this was lessened drastically.

The budget and expenditure for the project was as follows:

*Budgeted Used Difference*

Societies week

ZAR

10,000.00

ZAR

2,359.88

-ZAR

7,640.12

Rooiplein and Tables & Chairs

Booking

ZAR

5,000.00

ZAR

1,500.00

-ZAR

3,500.00

Tables and Chairs Packing

ZAR

2,000.00 ZAR 800.00

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-ZAR

1,200.00

**Advertising (and Markings)\***

ZAR

1,000.00 ZAR 59.88 -ZAR 940.12

**Sanitisers and Masks\*\***

ZAR

2,000.00 ZAR 0.00

-ZAR

2,000.00

Savings: ZAR 7,640.12

**\* Advertising was done mainly on Social media, thus had no expense, but the markings**

required chalk and we also used name tags for the Covid compliance officers of each stall.

**\*\* These were given to us, and therefore no expenditure on our end.**

Any further information can be found on the folder sent out to the Council on 2 June.

**Societies Council Pre-Reregistration Period.**

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The Societies Council is a Section 3 body, established by the Student Constitution for the sacred task of protecting the rights of students as enshrined in the Bill of Student. Chapter 9, section 16 and section 17 outlines the documentations and procedural requirements, as a duly responsibility of the registrar to carry out the process of registration and re-registration. Therefore, Societies Council executive has approved the date of 15<sup>th</sup> of August to 15<sup>th</sup> of September as the registration period, with R700 as the registration fee for 2021, resulting in R200 less compared to 2020. Relevant template documents had been communicated to the Societies Council. Additionally, due to expected and observed challenges that societies have encountered with raising their memberships and hosting of events or activities; most societies resulted in financial loss, thus we, Societies Council executive, initiated subsidies for societies that are under financial constraints. The executive had budgeted R7000 which is set aside to assist those societies which there is a procedural on allocating the subsidies such has also been communicated to Societies Council.

## **Task Teams**

### **Social media**

The Secretary is responsible for the updating of Social Media platforms of the Societies' Council. The secretary maintains the upkeep of the Social Media pages with the assistance of the task team that was developed in the beginning of his term. Societies are constitutionally obligated to complete two collaborations during the duration of their term as per section 25 of the Societies Council constitution, the Secretary has assisted in this regard by assisting with increasing the visibility of the collaborations on our social media platforms.

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## **Societies Constitutional Appraisal Task Team**

The task team was compiled and duties were given, but due to the late submission from the team, SCATT was finalised the beginning of August. Certificates were sent off to societies stating if they were successful or if there was adjustments that needed to be made.

## **Constitution and Policy**

### **Amendments to the Constitution.**

The Societies Council is a Section 3 body, established by the Student Constitution for the sacred task of protecting the rights of students as enshrined in the Bill of Student Rights. The Societies Council is especially entrusted with protecting the rights to, freedom of religion, belief, opinion, speech, and the freedom of association. Thus in this regard, The societies Council Executive took an executive decision to go through the proposed amendments for the constitution together rather than one individual. This decision was taken in light of the reshuffling of the executive that had taken place, the aim was to not overburden Tamara with a heavy task on top of the work that she had, and I seeing that I had SRC obligations to meet as well.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of May, the council had its second term meeting, in this meeting the council went through the proposed amendments and the voting lines for each amendment was open to have it adopted by the council. Although we had thoroughly explained the amendments to the council, we encountered a problem in terms of achieving the appropriate voting numbers to get the constitution adopted. We therefore had to keep the voting platform open for an extended period of time.

When we achieved the desired voting numbers, the constitution was sent to Student Court, this happened on the 6<sup>th</sup> Of August 2021.

## **Meetings**

The constitution stipulates that the Societies Council Executive meets at least once every week. Therefore, the executive has decided on meeting every Friday of the week for the weekly executive meeting.

## **Outstanding Societies' Commitments**

The Student Governance office requested that the Financial Advisor perform checks on cost centres that are in arrears, as well as those that have been inactive for 2 or more years. The crux of the work is to move money from these inactive cost centres to the general council cost centre, as well as to ensure that all treasurers perform their duties by settling any outstanding commitments, as well as by deleting any transactions that have been cancelled. More information on this will be given in the report on this, as it is still in process.

## **Recommendations to improve portfolio**

This term had relatively little events due to the fact that we are close to the end of our executive term and therefore the elections take priority. The scarce nominations that I received was my biggest concern this term as this meant having to take a different approach when it came to the elections. I would recommend that the incoming executive amends

the constitution to allow for nominations to be open to society executives in their entirety instead of the chairpersons and representatives.

This term highlighted a prevalent problem in the Societies Council, this is the appointment of incoming of executive members which speaks to a leadership drain on the Stellenbosch campus. A different approach when it comes to such is highly needed especially because the era of Covid 19 has limited the way in which the societies council can operate effectively.

The circumstances that we are faced with, as we continue to grieve our loss, are unique but it remains pivotal that we fulfil our constitutional obligations. The executive looks forward to welcoming the incoming 2021/2022 executive as we enter our last term in office. we hope to equip them to the best of our ability.

## Important Contacts

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