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SRC

Students' Representative Council
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Studenteraad



SRC 2024 TERM 3 REPORT

Prim Committee Vice-Chairperson

Students' Representative Council

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Foreword

Dear Students,

The time I have had to serve the students of Stellenbosch University has been an absolute privilege, within both the Prim Committee and SRC structures.

As a previous Primaria and House Committee member, ensuring the needs of all students are met to the best of our abilities is something I strongly believe in. Equipping them with what they need to experience the life that awaits at Stellenbosch. This is a unique opportunity to expand your horizons, both academically and personally. Step out of your comfort zone, join committees, attend events, and meet new people. The diversity of experiences and perspectives on campus is vast, and it's in these interactions that you'll discover new passions and forge lasting connections.

I am grateful for the opportunity to humbly serve you all and I cannot wait to share my many more passions and ideas with you all. This is simply the first of a few to come.



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Constitutional Responsibilities

As per SU Statute:

Section 68:

"Prim Committee' means the committee of head students of the various residences and in the private student organisation of the University".

As per Student Constitution:

Chapter 9 of the Student Constitution deals with the Prim Committee (PC) and sets out the composition, powers and duties of the PC.

Section 100: Constitutional mandate

"The Prim Committee has a constitutional mandate to: (1) Actively promote the rights of students contained in CHAPTER 2, and specifically the right, under s8(1), to an enabling campus environment in which student success and academic excellence are encouraged and pursued. (2) Serve as a forum of house committee leaders that strives to protect and further the interests of all students, by advising the SRC via the Prim Committee chairperson and vice-chairperson."

As per Prim Committee Constitution:

The PC Constitution, as amended in 2022, provides the mission, vision and core values of the Prim Committee. It also organises the affairs of the PC in respect of its meeting procedures, rights and duties, and code of conduct.

Section 5: Vision

"To sustainably foster a collaborative, advisory, and accountable relationship between Communities as well as to advocate for the needs of the students within these Communities in any and all bodies necessary."

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Section 6: Mission

"To ensure that the values of the university are not only reflected within Communities but upheld intentionally when representing students within said communities. The Prim Committee does this through its collaborative and deliberative engagements."

Section 7: Nature of the Prim Committee

(1) The Prim Committee is established by the Student Constitution as an autonomous student representational body and grants it all the powers necessary for that function.

(2) The Prim Committee functions in partnership with the CSLL to facilitate the advocacy of community-based needs to the CSLL, SRC, and relevant university management.

(3) The Prim Committee also serves as an adequate relay of information between university structures and the Prims of the houses, through the presence of the Prim Committee Executive members on various relevant bodies.

(4) The Prim Committee Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson function as ex-officio members of the SRC and thus, form a chain between the Centre for Student Governance and the CSLL.

(5) The Prim Committee functions to ensure that all Communities represented in the committee function in alignment with the student constitution as well as residence rules. Any community deviating from these documents shall be held accountable.

Portfolio Overview

The Prim Committee is an ex-officio structure to the SRC. The Vice-Chairperson's basic duties are outlined in the PC Constitution, which includes the duty of ensuring that all student communities operate to their full potential. As per the PC Constitution, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the PC must be the representative of either CSC's or residences. For the 2023/24 term, the Vice-Chairperson is the representative of CSC's. The PC serves as a platform where any student in a community space may raise a query through their respective House Committees and Prims, who then reports it to the PC meeting. The PC Executive will then deal with the matter directly or refer it to the relevant structure where appropriate. The Vice-Chairperson's duty is to ensure that all queries in the CSC spaces are heard and then resolved as expeditiously as possible. If the matter can't be resolved on PC level, the matter will be referred to either the SRC or CSLL (Centre for Student Life and Learning).

PC Constitution section 46(2):

"The Vice-Chairperson of the Prim Committee deputises the Chairperson and is at least responsible for –

- (a) The duties of the Chairperson in the event of the Chairperson being ill or unavailable.
- (b) Supporting the Chairperson in all administrative roles.
- (c) Representing the interests of all Communities on the Students' Representative Council as an ex officio member.
- (d) The evaluation and monitoring of all Communities.
- (e) Meeting all their obligations and duties, as determined by the Executive Committee.
- (f) Appointing and performing oversight over all subcommittees created by the Executive Committee or the Prim Committee and appoints their chairpersons, subject to the procedures in addendum D.

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- (g) The handling of any disciplinary matter within the Prim Committee.
- (h) The internal relations of the Prim Committee.
- (i) Nominating and submitting the list of candidates from which the delegates who represent the Prim Committee on institutional bodies are appointed, by either the Prim Committee or the Executive Committee – subject to the procedures in Addendum D.
- (j) Being the Caretaker of either Residences or CSC and fulfilling all the duties necessary for that special representational capacity.
- (k) The transitional arrangements, alongside the Administrative Officer, between the outgoing Executive Committee and the newly elected Executive Committee."

Committees/Task Teams

In my capacity as Vice-Chairperson of the Prim Committee, I serve on the following Committees and or Task Teams:

1) Student Communities Advisory Committee (SCAC)

The SCAC, formerly known as the 'Student Housing Committee,' serves as a forum for discussing matters related to student communities. This encompasses issues like residence space maintenance or upgrades, and similar topics. Chaired by Prof Ramjugernath, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Learning and Teaching, the committee includes members from facilities management, finance, SUNCOM, the Centre for Student Life and Learning (CSLL), and student leaders. The initial SCAC meeting for term 3 occurred on the 10th of April. The meeting included agenda points of a facilities management feedback report on various upgrades and maintenance across campus, as well as updates on the North Campus residences development, communication clarity with various structures, and the Prim Committee added an agenda point raising concerns about the booms not working at residences during load-shedding.

2) Welcoming Programme Committee

Chaired by the Director of the Centre for Student Life and Learning, the Welcoming Programme Committee comprises representatives from all faculties, the CSLL, and student leadership. The committee collaborates on planning Welcoming and ensuring all stakeholders are well-prepared.

4) Monitors Advisory Committee

Comprised of management members, the Monitors Advisory Committee (MAC) is chaired by Dr Choice Makhetha, the Senior Director of the Division of Student Affairs. The committee reviews complaints and positive feedback related to the Welcoming Programme from cluster monitors and Matie Monitors, as reported by the Head Monitor. The Prim Committee Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Director of Student Communities report to the MAC Committee based on actions taken. Throughout the Welcoming Programme, there are typically four scheduled MAC meetings. As soon as an incident is reported, the Head Monitor and Monitors Coordinator promptly inform the Director of Student Communities and the Prim Committee representatives. The Prim Committee Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson then collaborate with the Director of CSLL to determine the most appropriate course of action. Action is then taken and reported to the MAC committee in the following meeting. To ensure that all outstanding issues are resolved, the committee may request additional steps to be taken or further feedback to be provided at the next meeting. The monitors report was shared with communities successfully.

In my role as an SRC member, I contribute to the following committees:

1) Senate

As outlined in the SU Statute, the Senate oversees the academic and research functions of the University. It regulates learning, teaching, research, and academic support at SU, providing recommendations to the Council on academic policies. Chaired by Prof Wim de Villiers, the Rector, the Senate consists of the rectorate, COO, academic personnel, administrative and support staff, and student leaders from the SRC and AAC. There was one confidential Senate meeting during the second term in office on May 31, 2024, where agenda details cannot be disclosed.

Term 3 Overview

The third term of every leadership period is typically very brief, leaving little time to achieve all objectives. As exams approach, leaders tend to focus more on their studies. Despite this, the Prim Committee had a productive term and stayed dedicated to their tasks.

1. CSC StratCon (10 May):

I had the privilege of presenting at the CSC Stratcon on how Prims and Vice-Prims can assess their teams' current positions within their leadership term. This period often involves leaders grappling with fatigue while trying to prioritize their academics. Despite these challenges, the leaders in this session demonstrated exceptional engagement and a strong willingness to learn. They were keen to adapt their approaches to better align with their teams, aiming to maximize results for the remainder of their leadership term.

2. Matie Shop Engagement:

On April 16th, the Prim Committee Executive convened with relevant stakeholders at the Maties Shop to discuss the petitions outlined in the memorandum submitted by the Prim Committee. We prepared a comprehensive document containing extensive feedback from various communities, which provided an opportunity to review these insights with the

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stakeholders. Together, we examined each petition and identified strategies to address and prevent specific concerns. The meeting resulted in actionable plans to improve the Maties Shop's communication and engagement with student communities and leaders.

3. Open Meeting to Prospective Prims:

The Prim Committee successfully hosted an open meeting for prospective Prims. This meeting provided these candidates with a unique opportunity to observe an internal Prim Committee meeting. During the meeting, we encouraged the prospective Prims to reflect on their potential leadership roles and offered them insights into the significance of external relations within the Prim Committee context.

Plans for Next Term

The Prim Committee has outlined our plans for the upcoming term, encompassing a range of initiatives aimed at concluding on a resounding high note.

1. Open Meeting to Prospective Tygerberg Prims:

Prospective Tygerberg Prims will be invited to an open meeting to learn more about the Prim Committee's objectives and role in representing student communities. The meeting aims to allow prospective Prims to observe the committee and decide whether they would like to participate and contribute to its mission.

2. Prim Committee Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson Elections:

On 30 July 2024, we endeavour to elect our successors as future ex-officio members of the SRC. The Vice-Chairperson of the Prim Committee has worked closely with the Election Commissioner to ensure our election is facilitated in a manner that is fair and allows equal opportunity to all applicants.

3. Prim Committee Handover:

The Prim Committee Executive has meticulously prepared comprehensive reports to ensure a smooth handover to the newly elected and appointed PC Executive team. The handover process is designed to be well-structured and engaging, incorporating the following key elements:

1. One-on-One Meetings: Outgoing Executive Committee members will meet individually with their respective counterparts from the new team. These personalized sessions will facilitate focused information exchange, addressing specific concerns and providing valuable insights based on their experience.

2. Report Overview and Discussions: During the handover, the outgoing committee will present a detailed overview of the prepared reports. These discussions will allow the

incoming team to ask questions, seek clarification, and gain a thorough understanding of the tasks, challenges, and achievements of their predecessors.

2. Prim Gala:

The Prim Committee Executive is excited to organize the highly anticipated Prim Gala for 2024. This gala marks a significant occasion for the Prims to celebrate their successful term and bid farewell to their roles. The committee is committed to creating an unforgettable experience that the Prims will cherish, not only throughout the evening but also as a lasting memory.

Kind regards,



Courtney de Klerk

Vice-Chairperson