

STUDENTERAAD  
STUDENTS'  
REPRESENTATIVE  
COUNCIL

Office: 3rd Floor Neelsie  
Tel: (021) 808 2491 / 2493  
E-mail: [sr@sun.ac.za](mailto:sr@sun.ac.za) | [stelliesrc@gmail.com](mailto:stelliesrc@gmail.com)



<b>Name and Surname:</b>	Yanga Keva
<b>Position</b>	Chairperson: Societies Council
<b>Subject:</b>	<i>End of term: Sept 2019-Sept2020</i>
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:yanga@sun.ac.za">yanga@sun.ac.za</a>



STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL  
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## Constitutional Responsibilities

### *Student Constitution*

S88(1) states that the duties of the Societies Council are to represent the interests of all recognised student societies and that of student societies of the university of Stellenbosch, in that capacity on the SRC and all other structures.

### *Societies Council*

S15(1) states that the chairperson of the Societies Council is responsible for representing the interests of all societies and the Societies Council on the SRC.

## Portfolio Overview

### 1. *The SRC*

The Societies Council has a mandate to be the representative body of all student societies, it contributes to the general student experience through supporting student societies and encouraging students to participate in activities which enhance the student experience.

### 2. *Stellenbosch University*

The societies Council has a dual mandate, the first being that of representing student societies on campus, the second being a structure for consultation between student leaders. This in turn ensures that student societies become an enriching platform for all students

### 3. *South Africa*

Student organisations have always been a pillar of South African higher institutions of learning. From our pre-democratic era, student organisations





were the main driving force in the struggle against the injustices of the time, it is from within student organisations that formidable leaders such as Steve Biko were born. In that regard even in post democracy South Africa student organisation continue to be forces of positive change, whether one agrees with their tactics or not, the role and influence of student societies in the change we have witnessed in the higher education sphere can never be down played.

## Committees / Task Teams

### Institutional

#### 1. Honoraria review committee

The mandate of the committee was to:

- Review the existing honoraria guide of the university.
- Ensure that all necessary updates and amendments to the guideline are made'
- Ensure that the guidelines align with the institution's financial policy'
- Ensure mechanisms which will encourage compliance with the guideline
- Create a document which is comprehensive and coherent.
- Present a report to student affairs

#### 2. Anti-GBV working group: Procedures and Processes

The mandate of the committee is:

- Review polices which directly impact the fight against Gender based violence.
- Identify shortcomings with the institutional policies for dealing with such incidences.
- Produce recommendations to the Policy holder

### Other committees

Executive Committee: Student Representative Council

The mandate of the SRC executive is to:





- Set the agenda for SRC meetings
- Manage the day-to-day matters of the SRC
- Fulfil any duty the SRC delegates to it
- Fulfil any other function that the Constitution assigned to it
- Compile the SRC budget
- Make important decisions in urgent cases
- Allocation of SRC portfolios
- Appoint the election convenors.

### Budget Overview

Despite the unbelievable difficulty with ensuring that the SRC budget was finalised, the Societies Council still had difficulty with attaining its full SRC Subsidy, this led to the Societies Council approaching the Student Court in order to seek appropriate relief, the matter was finally resolved and the Societies Council received its full subsidy, the Financial report may be found in the State of Council report below.

### Term Overview

As chairperson of the Societies Council I have a dual mandate of representing societies and also managing the affairs of the societies Council as such my term overview would often contain two reports, which was my own personal reflection as well as the State of Council report. However, for the purpose of this report I will limit the Chairperson's report to being a brief reflection on my functions within the SRC and my full term report will be fund in the form of the State of Council report.





## Chairperson's report

### Prologue

There are very few structures within our institution that have seen as much turmoil and disruption as the SRC 2019/2020. It is rather unfortunate that the SRC's term was so capriciously delayed because of a vaguely defined 'process' which not only produced no findings but whose findings have not been made publicly accessible. Following that delay was the Covid-19 crisis which in turn exposed the dysfunctionality within the SRC.

### SRC functioning

After the delay in the start of the SRC term, the Executive was elected, I was selected by my colleagues to serve them in this capacity, as such I became a member of the Executive committee which is the functional unit of the SRC. During my time in this committee I have noticed a few matters about the SRC structure and how it functions:

1. Governing policies that determine the structure's functions are either incredibly outdated, irrelevant, or incoherent. Further, access to some of these policies was intentionally prohibited from being accessed by members of the SRC which made the functionality of the SRC even that much more difficult.
2. The structural orientation of the SRC indicate that it is built to fail. The SRC as a structure is largely powerless and too top heavy. I.e. the structure is too big and creates a heavy bureaucracy which makes functionality very difficult. Further, the only members within the SRC who possess any form of substantive authority are the members who represent the other S3 structures on the SRC. These ex-officio members are the only authoritative arm of the SRC, however





even their powers are limited and further, the SRC has no authority over the activities of the different structures they represent.

3. What this translates to is that without the executive and the *ex-officios* the SRC is reduced to nothing more than an event planning mechanism. This is highly dysfunctional and must be urgently addressed.
4. A further issue with functionality was the lack of accountability within the structure. Many of the members demonstrated an utter disdain for their responsibilities, often slacking in their duties, this resulted in the entire structure malfunctioning.

### **SRC working relationships**

Another issue within this SRC was the toxic working environment within which we had to operate. The toxicity ranged from the managers feeling disregarded and undervalued (given that this was largely our fault as the Executive because we unlawfully reduced their income). From there; it was an absolute disregard for our constitutional order, members who behaved as if they were the law unto themselves and ultimately this resulted in members neglected most if not all of their duties and responsibilities. This resulted in a working environment characterised by gossip, rampant incompetence, and an unwillingness to build a collective group identity.

It is perhaps our failure to work as a team, or perhaps to work at all, that resulted in our dismal performance as a structure. Above and beyond this dysfunctionality was an inability of the leadership within the structure to call its members to order. What we





experienced was a leadership (Executive Committee) that was unable to lead, this resulted in a leaderless structure that was characterised by infighting and mudslinging.

### **Student Governance relationship**

Another long-standing matter within the SRC is the working relationship between Student Governance and the SRC. This is not a new matter and in fact it is a recurring issue which has been the cause of lament for many SRCs before ours. Ultimately, the issue is around the functions and powers of Student Governance as a structure, there is often a lot of confusion about what the role of Student Governance really is, further this uncertainty about the role of the structure has a tendency to cause friction when the members from the structures collide on a decision. An attempt was made to have this ambiguity addressed; however, this attempt was met with hostility and an unwillingness to constructively engage on the functionality of Student Governance.

I believe that part of the issue is not just the confusion around Student Governance but it is a campus wide outdated structure, there is a need for all the governing policies, mandates and frameworks of all the structures under Student Affairs to undergo a policy and structure review. Further I believe Student Governance may benefit from having their performance reviewed by the student leaders who worked under their supervision.

### **Plans for Next Academic Term**

In the following term I aim to:

- Retire





- Advise my successor in terms of completing the tasks which have not been completed

### Important Contacts

These are the university administrators that are important to the functioning of the Societies Council

1. **Gavinn Nimmo** – [gavinn@sun.ac.za](mailto:gavinn@sun.ac.za) (Student information systems support)
2. **Dennis Immelman**- [di@sun.ac.za](mailto:di@sun.ac.za) (Student fees)
3. **Thulani Hlatswayo**- [thulani@sun.ac.za](mailto:thulani@sun.ac.za) ( Student Governance Co-ordinator)
4. **Anele Mdepa**- [anelemdepa@sun.ac.za](mailto:anelemdepa@sun.ac.za) ( Student Governance Manager)
5. **Sharine Dowries**- [sharine@sun.ac.za](mailto:sharine@sun.ac.za) (Student Governance Admin officer)
6. **Gershwin Fritz**- [gfritz@sun.ac.za](mailto:gfritz@sun.ac.za) (CSC Admin officer)
7. **Brandon Como**- [como@sun.ac.za](mailto:como@sun.ac.za) (Events and Security operations officer)
8. **Phillip Ramothwala**- [phillipr@sun.ac.za](mailto:phillipr@sun.ac.za) (Assistant accountant: financial services)
9. **Nicky Adams**- [nadams@sun.ac.za](mailto:nadams@sun.ac.za) (Promotions Officer, Neelsie management)

### State of Council Report

## Preface

The Societies Council consists of the chairpersons and their appointed additional Society Representative of all registered Societies on Stellenbosch Campus, and together form a body of support and shared ideals. Societies play an important role on campus and make a great contribution to student's lives on campus. Societies provide





an environment where students can meet new people that share similar interests or ideas and provide a "home away from home". Societies are a place to make friends for life and help create a balanced student lifestyle. The Societies Council Executive has the duty to ensure that it gives regular feedback on the progress of the Societies Council, this report seeks to report on the progress of the Societies Council from the period starting 16<sup>th</sup> of September 2019 to 14<sup>th</sup> of September 2020. Many of the projects and initiatives referred to in this report are only referred to succinctly, more detailed reports on such activities are available upon request.

## Executive appointments

### Initial appointment

The process for the appointment of executive members which was followed was in terms of s12(2) of the Societies Council constitution, in the result the following members were appointed:

- Nomzamo Buthelezi – Vice-Chairperson
- Ntando Mncube – Treasurer
- Tebogo Mphahlele – Registrar

The position of Secretary remained vacant as no one had been appointed. At the first executive meeting with the above-mentioned executive members, the issue was thoroughly discussed. The executive considered that the vacancy needed to be urgently filled and as the constitution did not prescribe a way forward the executive resolved to co-opt a person into the executive, the process which was followed may





be found in the minutes of the meeting. As the result, Nabeelah Abrahams was co-opted into the executive.

### **Role redistribution**

One of the many challenges which the previous executive faced was the numerous vacancies in their Executive Committee, as a result, many duties were reshuffled amongst the executive members which remained at the time. While this may have ensured that certain duties continue to be fulfilled the unintended consequence was that it created a culture of chaos and a lack of accountability, the first task was to restore the responsibilities of each member to the constitutionally mandated office for the fulfilment of those responsibilities. The office of the Secretary was given additional responsibility, i.e. social media

### **The capacity of the Societies Council Executive**

- ❖ The Council Executive determined that at the start of their term, they were not capable or in any way prepared for the job of running the Societies Council.
- ❖ They have, however, fought their way through and were able to make it work despite the tremendous workload.
- ❖ The Council Executive created a handbook wherein the roles of each Executive member are defined and will also provide advice, tips, and explanations on how to efficiently proceed as a member of the Council Executive and Council Member





- ❖ Lastly, the Council Executive has added one additional member to the Executive Committee under the title: Administrative Officer, to assist with the workload.

## Secretary resignation

One of the many threats to the project of rebuilding the Societies Council was the mass resignations within the Council Executive Committee that have historically left the Council damaged irreparably, it was the intention of the current Council Executive Committee, to ensure that during our term not a single member of the Executive Committee would resign. Unfortunately, that project of stability and coherent leadership was placed in great jeopardy when the Secretary of the Societies Council informed the executive of her intention to resign. In this regard numerous attempts were made to dissuade her from continuing with her resignation, however, all efforts failed. On the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2020, the secretary resigned.

Fortunately, the Executive Committee was able to fill the vacancy efficiently and constitutionally on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March Ms. Tamara Wicomb was constitutionally appointed as the Secretary of the Societies Council.

## Term reports

The Societies Council Executive Committee members 2019/2020, have submitted their term reports for each academic term for which they were in their positions, further they have all submitted their end of term reports. The Members of the Council may receive these reports upon request.





## Task Teams

### General task team

Stellenbosch University conducted an Audit on some of its structures, one of which was the Societies Council, the findings were damning and indicated that Societies Council needed some very radical change. The system was outdated, unsecure, and riddled with errors and a lack of accountability.

In response to these issues, a task team, which is referred to as the “general task team” was established by the Societies Council for the purpose of finding solutions to the problems that were highlighted in the report. The report was highly confidential and not all details could be shared earlier on in the year, however, now; members of the Council may receive a copy of the report upon request.

The Executive Committee has been working with the office of Student Governance to resolve the issues which have been highlighted. We have determined that some of the objectives are unachievable whilst some may take more time than was anticipated.

Unfortunately, the task team did not have frequent meetings due to the unavailability of its members, however, the Council Executive ensured that most of the issues the task team flagged were noted, in this regard a report back meeting took place on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February, to ensure that we meet the audit deadline of the 28<sup>th</sup> of February, during which the task team went through all its previous recommendations and as such examined the progress thus far.

Below is an overview of the identified risks by the audit and the work which has been done to address the risks:





➤ **Risk 1: No clearly defined financial Policies**

- ❖ Treasurer trainings were increased; Societies attended training received by other leadership structures.
- ❖ Treasurers were also required to submit the society's budget for the year before the approval of funds.
- ❖ A code of conduct was introduced which introduced regulations on the financial activities of societies.

➤ **Risk 2: No monitoring of financial activities of societies and inadequate Council membership**

- ❖ Constitutionally chairpersons and treasurers of societies are Founding members of their respective Societies. However, The Executive determined that the current membership provisions are adequate.
- ❖ Rules of engagement were adopted as part of the Code of Conduct to ensure cordiality during meetings.
- ❖ It was suggested that the executive do random check-ups on randomly decided Societies throughout the year to ensure compliance with financial regulations. These will be conducted by the Vice-Chairperson and Treasurer of the Societies Council.

➤ **Risk 3: lack of evidence pertaining to treasurer training**

- ❖ An attendance register was taken at all trainings
- ❖ A list reconciling all treasurers who attended training with members who are expected to join was compiled.





- ❖ The competency and efficiency of work done by treasurers will be tested.
- ❖ A manual (handbook) containing all documents required by treasurers is being compiled and will be distributed at reregistration.
- **Risk 4: the inadequate process of soliciting members**
  - ❖ The executive created:
    - a consent form
    - an indemnity form,
    - a sign-up procedure
    - a verification process to regulate the membership sign-ups.
  - ❖ The Societies Council online sign up process is also being updated; this includes the website.
- **Risk 5: Funding structure of the SC**
  - ❖ The Council Executive wanted the Societies Council to achieve financial independence from the SRC.
  - ❖ This need was highlighted when the SRC failed to elect their chairperson and release funds in time for Societies Council events.
  - ❖ A new funding model for the Council has been introduced and will be piloted in the following year
  - ❖ Other ideas include fundraisers as well as seeking sponsors.
- **Risk 6: Reregistration, registration, and review**
  - ❖ The registration form for societies has been adjusted and fixed.
  - ❖ It is now mandatory for all societies to have cost points.
  - ❖ At registration, all societies are required to submit a vision and mission statement to which they can be held accountable.





- ❖ The executive will conduct an annual review of all societies and the process by which they are governed.

## **PSO-Societies Collaboration Task Team**

After a lengthy consultation with various stakeholders It was determined that a task team should be created to exclusively focus on the matter of external collaborations of the Societies Council, although the task team was established in November it only produced its report during the second term The Task team was established with the following mandate:

- The task team must determine the nature of the collaboration between the PSOs and Societies.
- The task team must study the possible parameters of the collaboration.
- The task team must compile a comprehensive report with recommendations by the 15th of January 2020.
- The task team must establish its own timeframes and targets which will assist it when completing their work before the deadline of the 15th of January.

After due consideration, the task team completed its report and submitted it to the Societies Council executive, the report is available on request. As part of the recommendation of the task team an additional structure would have to be created to organize a symposium that would deliberate on the collaboration.





After consultation with stakeholders such as the PSO coordinator, the Student governance manager, the PK vice-chairperson it was determined that the task team's mandate would be expanded in the following ways:

1. The task team would not be dissolved but would continue until an environment of collaboration between the structures is secured.
2. The task team would receive funding for all of its activities.
3. The task team would be given the authority to appoint and establish substructures which would aid in the fulfilment of its mandate.

Following the Symposium, the following recommendations agreed upon by the relevant stakeholders:

1. A list of Societies and their activities would be circulated amongst the PSO and other structures.
2. PSO welcoming programmes would seek to include Societies, this includes informing Societies when planning for Welcoming begins.
3. Societies and PSO would receive joint training at the beginning of the year, this training would be a collaborative event opportunity.
4. A central collaboration fund would be created for the purpose of fulfilling any financial commitments that would arise out of the collaboration.
5. Further consultation between the relevant Stakeholders would be necessary to ensure continuity.
6. The Status of the Task Team is to be decided upon by the next Council Executive.





## Social Media Task team

A social media task team consisting of 3 members, one of which is the secretary, is in place. The task team has access to the Societies Council Instagram as of January 2020. The Twitter page runs along with the Instagram page and has also been set up and completed for use during January 2020. Access to the Societies Council official email (societiesvr@sun.ac.za) was granted in January 2020. The SC Facebook page has been fully operational since December 2019.

## Constitutional Review task team

The Constitutional Review Committee was formed with the following objectives in mind:

To produce-

- A comprehensive Constitution
- A Constitution that is reader-friendly and with better flow
- A non-redundant Constitution that covers all the bases
- A Constitution that would hold up in Student Court, in the unlikely event that the Council is taken to Student Court

The review started after the November examination period of 2019 and concluded on the 30th of January 2020. A report was then submitted to the Chairperson of the Societies Council in line with the Code of Conduct.

The amended Constitution was tabled to the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee then submitted their written comments on the constitution which were then discussed at an executive meeting. This was for consolidating matters before the finalized Constitution is tabled to the Council for approval and adaptation.





The Constitutional Review Committee was disbanded after the report was submitted to the Chairperson of Societies Council.

### **Verification Task team process**

Following various issues being noted with the Societies Council society member recruitment process, the Council Executive completely reconfigured the manner in which we process membership to societies. The reconfiguration found its climax in the verification process which intended to ensure the validity of all memberships acquired during the society's fairs. Thus, the verification task team was established. The mandate of the task team was to:

1. Redesign the recruitment process'
2. Provide a strict procedure for recruitment
3. Produce a procedure for verification
4. Conduct the verification
5. Produce a report.

The activities and the outcomes of this project may be found in the verification process report which is available on request.

### **Handbook Task team**

As part of the Assessment, we had done in the first term of our tenure, and the assessment of the general Societies Council task team. We determined that a Societies Council handbook was necessary for the purpose of coherently compiling all the policies of the Societies Council. This Document would seek to make the task of understanding the Societies Council more efficacious for Society leaders and even members of the Council.





In pursuit of this objective, the Societies Council Handbook Task team was established. The purpose of this would be to collate all the policies which govern the Societies Council and to create a coherent document that would be the official policy document of the Societies Council. The Task Team was officially established by the Executive Committee in terms of section 4 of the Societies Council Code of Conduct, the members of the Task Team were recruited by the Executive Committee.

### **Societies Constitutional Appraisal Task Team**

As part of the ongoing project of making the Societies Council more efficient, we sought clarity on a matter that had been previously dealt with arbitrarily by the Societies Council. The matter pertained to whether the Chapter 9 Provisions of the Student Constitution necessitated that individual Society constitutions be approved by the Student Court. An assessment by the Societies Council had determined that not only was the reliance on student Court unreasonable it also created a heavy backlog for the Societies Council in terms of approving new constitutions and new amendments. This resulted in the 2018 decision to no longer make ratification by the Student Court a necessity for registration of a Society Constitution. However, despite this, there continued to exist challenges with how the Societies Council approved constitutions.

In the result, a broad consultation process with the Executive Committee of the Student Court began, after this, the members of that executive agreed that a preliminary assessment of the Provisions in the Student Constitution indicates that ratification by the Student Court is not necessary in this regard and that, that duty was duly delegated to the Societies Council. Following this discussion, the Executive





Committee determined that a permanent task team should be appointed for the purpose of reviewing, assisting in drafting, and ratifying of Society Constitutions. In this regard, a process to establish the task team and to ensure it gets the necessary training and a competent membership began. This was then delegated to the Vice-Chairperson to conclude the process.

## Evaluation Panel

The Executive Committee had grown increasingly dissatisfied with the arbitrary nature of the assessment of the performance of the Executive Committee, in this regard a new constitution amendment was introduced which would ensure that a proper process is developed for the assessment of the performance of the Executive Committee. In this regard, an evaluation panel must now be established to evaluate the performance of the Executive Committee and to produce a report which would be used by the Chairperson in determining the Honoraria of the Executive Committee members. This process will be concluded by the 14<sup>th</sup> of September 2020

## Meetings

### Council Meetings

In the 4th term of 2019, there were only 2 meetings of the Societies Council.

Held on:

- 23rd September primarily for the adoption of the constitutional amendment introducing a code of conduct.
- 2nd October for the adoption of the code of conduct.





The agendas for both meetings were prepared and distributed before the respective meetings. Both meetings were also used for the distribution of important information. Minutes of both meetings were recorded, approved, and distributed within 5 (working) days after the respective meeting and are held by and accessible as both hard and soft copies.

An exception to the minutes of the meeting held on the 23rd of September, as it was declared insufficient and not approved.

## Summary of resolution

The Societies Council has had a total of 2 Societies Council Meetings below is a list of the resolutions which were taken at the meetings, most of the resolutions were carried out with a few currently being pursued.

- With regards to the audit report received, the following actions were taken:
  - The creation of an audit process for membership sign-ups.
  - Training for incoming society executives.
  - Amending the constitution.
- A code of conduct was adopted to address disciplinary issues along with a Disciplinary Committee.
- Task teams were introduced for the following purposes:
  - PSO-Societies Task Team: creating a network for collaboration with PSO's
  - A Constitutional Review Committee: to review the constitution and provide recommendations.
  - The Treasurers task team: assistance with the control of societies funds.





- A Disciplinary Committee: to address and manage the discipline of the Societies Council.
- Social Media Task Team: to modernize the Societies Council and the way it is run.
- Office Space Allocation Task Team: assist in effectively allocating offices to Societies.

## Council Meetings

In the 1<sup>st</sup> academic term of 2020, there were 2 scheduled meetings of the Societies Council, however only one took place.

Held on:

- 17th February held to welcome back societies and give feedback on societies fairs and adoption of the rules of engagement.
- 18th March, **cancelled**, due to outbreak of COVID-19

The agenda for both meetings was prepared and distributed before the respective meetings. Both meetings were also used for the distribution of important information. Minutes of the meeting that took place was recorded, approved, and distributed within 5 (working) days after the meeting and is held and accessible as both hard and soft copies.

## Executive Meetings

Executive Meetings: As of the 23rd of March 2020, to 30<sup>th</sup> May there have been a total of 14 Executive Committee meetings.

- 2 with discussions on the constitution on the 24th and 28th of March.





- 8 regular meetings of the executive on the 03rd, 09th, 25th, and 30th of April and the 09th, 17th, and 30th of May
- 1 meeting with the election Convenors on the 23rd of April.
- 1 meeting with the handbook task-team on the 08th of May.
- 1 meeting with the Student Court on the 07th of April.
- 1 meeting to discuss society levies with the Tygerberg Societies Council on the 4th of June.

most of the agendas were sent out before the meetings and the minutes were distributed thereafter.

### **Council Meetings:**

In the 2nd term, there were only 2 meetings of the Societies Council.

Held on:

- 29th April primarily for the adoption of the constitutional amendments and the BMF motion
- 22nd May primarily for the discussion with regards to the societies cost center, and how it is affected now due to the pandemic.

The agendas for the above meetings were sent out, a week before the meeting and the minutes were distributed thereafter.

### **4th term Meetings**

With regards to the council and the executive, we have had a total of 10 meetings 7 for the executive and 3 for the council.





The dates have been:

- The 18th of July was an ordinary executive meeting
- The 22nd of July was an executive meeting with regards to the Code of Conduct
- The 27th of July was the caucus for the new Societies Council
- The 30th of July was the announcement of the new council
- The 1st, 12th, 07th, and 23rd was an ordinary executive meeting
- The 14th was the last final council meeting. The agendas for the above meetings were disturbed before the meeting and the minutes have been distributed after

## Constitution and Policy

### Constitution and Policy

Following an order of the Student Appeals court which declared that the Societies Council Constitution was at times ambiguous and even non-sensical, and in need of urgent amendment. A constitutional review task team was established, the Task Team concluded its work and presented its report and draft constitution in January 2020.

Further, the disciplinary subcommittee in collaboration with the constitutional review task team determined procedures and rules of behaviour during Societies Council Meetings.





In the treasurer's end of term report, there is a call for Societies Council to be much stricter about the financial management within societies. In response to this, the current Treasurer has formulated a template to be used for societies' budgets. Further, the Executive Committee has made it a mandatory requirement that budgets be submitted for enhanced monitoring and evaluation

## **Constitution**

At the end of the second term, the Constitution had been reviewed and tabled to the Executive. At the beginning of the third term, the Executive Committee met for two meetings to discuss the amendments and make any additional amendments and recommendations.

Once the recommendations of the Executive Committee were taken into consideration, the Amended Constitution was tabled to the Societies Council. The Council voted and adopted the amended Constitution on the 22nd of May 2020.

The Constitution was then sent to Student Court for approval and was accordingly ratified on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August 2020 and then sent to the SRC for notice.

## **Rules of Engagement**

The Chairperson noted that there was a general lack of discipline and respect amongst the members of the Council. Having noted this the Chairperson proposed an amendment to the Code of Conduct, which was already adopted in 2019.

The disciplinary subcommittee in collaboration with the constitutional review task team determined procedures and rules of behaviour during Societies Council Meetings, these were to be presented to the Council for consideration and adoption.





The Rules of Engagement were complied with the following in mind:

- Ensuring more manageable Council meetings
- Giving the Council the ability to remove unruly members
- Holding all members of the Council accountable

The Rules of Engagement were a joint effort from the Disciplinary Committee and the Constitutional Review Committee. This was done to ensure that the rules were in line with the Constitution.

The Rules of Engagement were firstly tabled to the Executive Committee for comment, after these were taken into consideration the Rules of Engagement were then tabled to the Council for adoption.

The Rules of Engagement were adopted by the Council and have then been referred to Student Court, these rules are already in full effect during Council meetings

## Discipline

Societies Council has been faced with numerous disciplinary issues, unfortunately, the executive was not equipped with proper policies that will provide it with the necessary processes to reaffirm its authority and return dignity to the council. In this regard, the Council Executive drafted a council code of conduct that ALL societies must subscribe to as a prerequisite for reregistration. `

Further, the Disciplinary subcommittee which was established became functional and determined an appropriate sanction in a matter which was referred to it by the Council. In the matter of the Former EFFSC Chairperson Mr. Smith, the Disciplinary Committee





determined that a lifetime ban from further attending any Societies Council meetings was an appropriate sanction, further it determined that the Society would have a responsibility to ensure that they do not delegate said person to represent their society at any future Societies Council meetings, additionally no punitive sanctions were thrust upon the society, the Council Executive Committee consented to these findings and executed the recommendations of the Disciplinary subcommittee.

### **Disciplinary action**

Among the many objectives of this Societies Council, one of them was to professionalise the Societies Council. It had been noted that a lack of order and discipline from the Council Executive Committee had the effect of trickling down chaos into the council. During the term, a member of the Executive Committee behaved in a manner that was believed to be contrary to our policy as a Council, but further, it was contrary to the objective of professionalising the council. As such the matter was referred to the Disciplinary Committee for consideration.

Further, as part of the reconfigured membership process the executive scrutinized all membership withdrawals, in the course of this process the executive was alerted to a possible case of fraud of which the registrar in collaboration with the vice-chairperson investigated, the results of the investigation indicated the need for disciplinary proceedings against the accused party, of which an S38(2) motion was tabled to the Council as it is believed that the accused Society had done great damage to the council and Stellenbosch University.





## Disciplinary Issues

During the third term, there were no new disciplinary issues. Most issues from the previous term were already dealt with, except for the issue of Societies Council VS Black Management Forum. The S41(2) [used to be S38(2)] motion against BMF was presented to the Societies Council on the 29th of April 2020. The Council voted that BMF had indeed done damage to the image of the Societies Council, the voting took place electronically.

The BMF chairperson was informed of the outcome of the S38(2) motion. As with many things, this did not end amicably as BMF submitted a retort to the letter informing them of the outcome. At this point the Council Chairperson instructed the Registrar to work with BMF on a determination of who should be held responsible, this is to satisfy the requirements under the provision. The Executive Committee determined that the Society as a whole should be held accountable. After consultation with the Council Disciplinary Committee, the Executive Committee resolved to De-register the Society.

## Leadership development

Another issue which was noted in both the end of term reports and the audit report was the lack of adequate training for society executives, in this regard the executive resolved to increase the number of trainings such that there is adequate training. This was executed through the first Societies Council leadership development workshop, the three financial managers' trainings, and the Societies Council leadership training in January 2020.





## Leadership development training

In compliance with our constitutional responsibilities and per an earlier assessment, it was determined that a second leadership development workshop would be necessary, the objective of the training was:

1. To equip society leaders with the tools needed to govern their societies
2. To equip societies with knowledge on how to conduct their activities in compliance with the relevant institutional policies.
3. To announce the reconfigured recruitment procedure
4. showcase to society leaders; structures on campus that are there to assist them should they require any other services not directly provided by the council.

The training took place on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January 2020, through the support of a variety of stakeholders the event was a success.

## Societies fair

The Societies fair proved to be a very complex affair; upon commencement of our term we were made aware that there were numerous challenges with the fair namely:

1. The appropriate planning had not been done in preparation for the fair.
2. Due to a lack of planning the necessary documentation had not been submitted on time.
3. Due to many issues with the membership sign-ups the student fees department had refused to accept sign-ups via the sign-up sheets thus there would be no signups during the fair.
4. There would be new costs associated with having the fair which could not be reduced as they would pay for security and other safety preparations.





5. That certain societies would not be allowed to use certain substances during the fair.

Many of the above-mentioned issues have been resolved with a few challenges which we are currently working on.

## Welcoming fair

In compliance with the obligations of the council as prescribed by the constitution; the Societies Council hosted its welcoming fair on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January 2020 and its general fair on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January 2020, the purpose of these fairs was to be a platform for student societies to showcase their organisations. The exhibition was used for marketing and recruitment purposes. The details of the fair and all matters pertaining to its arrangement have been dealt with in detail in the societies' fairs report. Which is available on request.

## Society Sign-ups

### SunStudent workshop which focused on Societies and Sports Club Management

#### *Background*

The first phase of the SunStudent project consists of Blueprint workshops during which all relevant capabilities of Serosoft were discussed with key stakeholders. This phase kicked off on Monday 3 June 2019 with Change Management preparation and

Blueprint workshop general information sessions as precursors to the Blueprint workshops. The Blueprint workshops are aimed at providing Serosoft with the opportunity to understand SU processes, while simultaneously creating the





opportunity for SU staff to understand what Academia has to offer. They furthermore allow SU to rethink and align current processes with international standards. The workshops will run until April 2020. The different capabilities are divided into buckets, aiming for an even distribution of the workload of staff with regards to project activities within our daily routine and business-as-usual activities.

### ***The commencement***

An invitation to attend the blueprint workshop that was held on the 25th of February 2020 at STIAS was received from the Director of Student Information System Support namely Jan du Toit. This invitation was to be part of the Blueprint phase which is an inclusive process during which workshop attendees give their inputs. And therefore, the attendees will also have an opportunity to verify and review the processes captured by Serosoft before the Blueprint documents are signed-off.

### ***Implementations***

1. The system will enable a chairperson to have access to their society information such as extracting a list of students that have signed online. Treasures being able to get access to the system without using certain computer areas, the system being easily accessible everywhere globally and easy to use, which will be available to Mobile phones, Personal Computer, and Tablets.

2. Upon request that Societies sign-up during January and February procedure should be paperless, there were a lot of challenges with moving to an online signup system in January namely most students have not yet registered, hence even internet access





won't be available with the primary reason being that for a student to have access to Wi-Fi they need to register their devices and the challenge is that they are not registered.

### ***Recommendations***

a suggestion was made during the workshop that Societies should move to SMS facilities, whereby a student would SMS their details to a specific host, that once a student registers with the institution they get enrolled to their societies of choice e.g. SMS student number: 12345678      Name of Society: Studying Society      Societies Cost Point: SV001 to 23232 And, to work with the university SMS systems, therefore, the Societies Council executive is still to meet with these stakeholders and discuss how this system will work. Other systems of the Societies Council will remain the same such as the societies' website and other societies' platforms.

## **Registration**

### **2019 Registrations**

Society re/registration began on the 19<sup>th</sup> of August 2019, it was determined that the re/registration period would close on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October 2019. An estimated 60 Societies met the minimum requirements for re/registration with numerous appeals submitted for reconsideration. After all the appeals were processed per the Societies Council Constitution. The total number of Currently registered member societies in the Council was 65.

One of the many issues which were flagged by the audit were the Societies Council reregistration forms that needed to be reviewed. The forms were indeed reviewed and





updated accordingly, further; all societies were required to fill out the new registration forms in order to re/register their society.

## 2020 Re/registration process

The Planning of the re/registration process of societies for 2020/21: A Task Team was established the details and process of this task team are specified and outlined in a separate document. The re-registration Task team appointed its executive as prescribed in S4 of the Societies Council Code of Conduct, The Executive Committee of the Societies Council deliberated on the matter and resolved that the task team will consist of students that are competent and have the necessary skills and experience. The committee shall follow the procedure outlined in the mandate document for the execution of its duties, and also organizing relevant documents for the registration process.

Further, a registration letter was prepared, and it served to provide the Council with instructions or information on how to approach the re-registration period and deadlines that should be noted by all Chairpersons and society representatives. The date for the start of the Reregistration process was the 1st of August 2020 and closed on the 1st of September 2020. This will provide societies with an ample amount of time to submit all the necessary documentation for reregistration or registration of new societies.





## Relevance

Societies Council is one of the biggest Structures represented in the SRC, however, it finds very little recognition on campus, many students are unaware of the existence and/or function of the council. In response to this the Council sought to increase its visibility on campus throughout the year, this includes initiatives such as Societies Week and societies fairs.

Following the above-mentioned assessment, the Societies Council acquired the necessary resources for it to have its own stall at the Societies Fair, these resources would be used throughout the year as a means of increasing the visibility of the Council.

Further, the Societies Council executive attempted to broaden the footprint of the Council during its two Societies fairs which were bigger and greater than before, unfortunately, most of our planned major events could not be realised due to COVID-19.

## Symposium

Following the recommendation by the PSO-Societies task team a symposium to discuss the collaboration was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of march, all Societies were invited to attend as the event was mandatory, However, less than half of all societies sent a representative to the event.

The outcomes of the Symposium are available as a report was submitted in this regard; the task team will meet in due course to discuss the implementation of some of the recommendations which were produced by the symposium.





## Student Parliament

S57 of the Student Constitution came into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2019, this provision had a major impact on the Council. The executive had to intercept numerous attempts by the Student Parliament which in our opinion wanted to violate the autonomy of the Council. The Council appointed the 19 members of student parliament who would serve as representatives of the council to Student parliament.

## Finances

### Budget

The inability of the SRC to have their internal elections resulted in the Societies Council being unable to receive their SRC subsidy and thus plan for the year, however, a draft budget of over R 200 000,00 was submitted to the SRC, of which after serious negotiation and deliberation resulted in the budget being reduced by over 50%, UNFORTUNATELY, the SRC still did not finalise its budget within the allocated time.

### SRC Subsidy

The Societies Council received an annual subsidy from the SRC in order to fulfil its constitutional mandate. Due to the inefficiency of the SRC, this subsidy was approved in May of this year, unfortunately despite this, the Treasurer decided to unlawfully withhold the funds from the Societies Council. After much difficulty, the Societies Council approached the Student Court for the appropriate relief. The matter was





decided upon in September 2020 and the Council has since received its budget allocation.

## **Finances**

### ***Financial Assistance***

The Societies Council Executive Committee has determined that in light of the recent financial burden that many societies may be faced with, we would be offering a subsidy to deserving societies for the purpose of re-registration, the criteria for this subsidy was explained in communications from the Financial Advisor of the Council.

### ***Historical debt***

Context: The Societies Council executive received communication in relation to societies historical debt. In the communication, the combined debt was said to be in excess of R110 000. It is important to note that this historical debt is problematic as this has had the potential of the university closing off societies from handling any cash in a bid to ensure no further debt is incurred. Should this have been allowed to continue it would have harmed Societies to the point that they might not be allowed to handle any cash or transaction

The SC handbook gives an outline to incoming leadership as to how the handling of funds is done. In addition, proper systems, and skills training will be put in place to prevent the re-occurrence of such delinquency.

## **Budget**

As per the Societies Council Constitution, the Financial Advisor of the Societies Council is responsible for the overseeing of the Societies Council budget for their term





and the compilation of a written report at the end of their term with recommendations for adjustments to the following term's budget.

Budgets are to serve as financial plans that outline future activities which are drafted in accordance with the expected income and expenses of the society in this case Societies Council. Budgets further serve as guidelines to plan future events/activities, co-ordinate, and to implement.

Herewith below is the draft budget for Societies Council for the period August 2019 till August 2020

<b>Anticipated Societies Council budget 2019/2020</b>			
<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
Balance B/F	R 30 000	Societies Fair	R 45 0000
Membership fees	R 30 000	Societies training	R 15 000
		Constitutional lit	R 5 000
		Societies week	R 20 000
		Leadership training	R 15 000
		Society training	R 10 000
		Tygerberg Collab	R 4 000
		PSO symposium	R 4 000
		Societies Ball	R 20 000
		SC Paraphernalia	R 9 500





		Societies Subsidies	R 15 000
		Social Impact	R 15 000
		Honorariums	R 24 000
		Executive Signatures	R 300
		Executive Blazers	R 4 000
		Transportation	R 6 000
		Office stationery	R 1 000
		End of term function	R 3 000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>R 60 000</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>R 215 800</b>

Thus, meaning the Societies Council would require an R 155 800 from the SRC. Despite the drafted budget representing the best interests of the council, the Students Representatives Council (SRC) decided not to approve the budget prompting the Executive Committee to re-work with the budgets that they had. Herewith below is the actual spending of Societies Council for the 2019/2020 year.

<b>Societies Council Executive Expenses</b>	
Executive Honorarium (6 000 X4)	R 24 000
Certificates & Medals	R 3 000
Transportation	R 2 000
End of Term Function	R 3 000





<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>R 32 000</b>
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<b>Consolidated Income of Societies Council</b>	
Societies Council Balance brought forward	R 30 500
Societies Council Membership Fees	R 30 000
SRC Subsidy	R 88 090
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>R 148 590</b>

<b>Consolidated Statement of Expenses for the year ended 15 August 2020</b>		
	2018/2019	2019/2020
Societies Council Paraphernalia	*	R 11 903. 21
Societies Council Telephone	*	R 5 178. 84
Societies Council General & Newcomers Fair	*	R 22 413. 50
Societies Council Training 1	*	R 10 518. 02
Societies Council Training 2	*	R 9 184. 10
Societies Council Data Reimbursements	*	R 3 986. 96
Societies Council Verification Process	*	R 3 997. 70
Societies Council Car Rental	*	R 1 046
PSO Collaboration	*	R 10 000
Societies Council Subsidies	*	R 10 000
Societies Council Loan	*	R 530





<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b>*</b> <b>-</b>	<b><u>R 88 758. 33</u></b>
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Due to no financial statements or budget plans being provided on the activities of Societies Council 2018/2019, the current 2019/2020 Council Executive Committee could not compare nor estimate or judge the financial trends of the council for the period of 2018-2020. This further impacts the ability of the financial advisor from being able to predict future expenditure.

Consequently, the accounting estimates in particular the balance brought forward used in the consolidated statement of income will not necessarily be in line with the actual outcome in subsequent periods.

<b>Societies Council Paraphernalia</b>	
SC Pull Up banner (3 145.24)	R 3 145. 24
SC Gazebo (8 757. 97)	R 8 757. 97
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>R 11 903. 21</u></b>
<b>Societies Council Telephone</b>	
Telephone calls (43.96+186.47-6.08+187.21-6.10+114.63-3.74)	R 514. 92
Telephone calls (113.75-3.70+167.87-5.74+208.40-6.80+85.74-2.80)	R 556. 99
Telephone calls (152.88-4.99+336.78-10.34+336.78-10.34+147.94)	R 948. 74
Telephone calls (-4.82+336.78-10.34+152.88-4.99+336.78-10.34+147.94)	R 795. 95
Telephone calls (152.88-4.99+336.78-10.34+152.88-4.99+336.78-10.34)	R 948. 66





Telephone calls (143.01-.66+336.78-10.98+10.34-10.98+10.34-10.98)	R 462. 87
Telephone calls (152.88+4.99+336.78-10.98+147.94-4.82+336.78-10.78)	R 952. 79
Telephone calls (152.88-4.99+336.78-10.98+147.94-4.82+336.78-10.98)	R 942. 61
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>R 5 178. 84</u></b>
<b>Societies Council General &amp; Newcomers Fair</b>	
Thoburn Security Solutions (5 842 – 190.50)	R 5 651. 50
V&E Events (1 600)	R 1 600
RESQ MEDIX Ambulance Services (2 840)	R 2 840
Venue (1 230)	R 1 230
Ten of Cups (3 600 + 2 576 – 84)	R 6 092
Miscellaneous items (5 000)	R 5 000
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>R 22 413. 50</u></b>
<b>Societies Council Training</b>	
<b>1</b>	
Gift packet (99.95)	R
Additional Food (99-3.22)	R 95. 78
C3 Catering (10 257-334.74)	R 9 922. 26





Additional Food (99-3.22)	R 95. 78
Venue (400)	R 400
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>R 10 518. 02</b>

<b>Societies Council Training</b>	
<b>2</b>	
Consumable Goods (2 353.91-76.76)	R 2 277. 15
Oasis Water (270-8.81+180-5.87)	R 435.52
Bidvest Catering (6 406,75-208,92)	R 6 197. 83
Venue (273.60)	R 273.60
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>R 9 184. 10</u></b>
<b>Societies Council Data Reimbursements</b>	
Keva (1 800 + 400 -13.04)	R 2 186. 96
Mncube (400)	R 400
Mphahlele (400)	R 400
Wicomb (400)	R 400
Buthelezi (400)	R 400
Abrahams (200)	R 200
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>R 3 986. 96</u></b>
<b>Societies Council Verification Process</b>	





Food (327,60-10,68+374,10-12,20+428)	R 1 106.82
Stationery (531,03-17,32+172,55-5,63 +579,14 -18,89)	R 1 240. 88
Data Capturer (750 + 900)	R 1 650
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>R 3 997. 70</u></b>
<b>Societies Council Car Rental</b>	
Car rental fee – CL20166 (256)	R 256
Car rental fee – CL15398 (396)	R 396
Car rental fee – CL78516 (396)	R 396
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>R 1 046</u></b>

Societies should note that this is not the full financial statement of the Societies Council as there have been amounts that have been omitted due to circumstances beyond the Executive Committee's control.

## Corona Virus

The Societies Council has been met by numerous existential challenges, challenges which threatened to overwhelm all the coping mechanisms of the council, however, a new challenge emerged, one which threatened the Council in a manner greater than any Council before it. The Covid-19 pandemic was declared a national disaster by the President, new laws were introduced to deal with the deadly virus, this forced the University to suspend all contact activities within its structures. Ordinarily, this would





be concerning to any structure, however, it is even more alarming to a structure whose primary activities are very events based.

In response to the pandemic the Societies Council executive directed that there must be a suspension of all contact activities of the Societies Council and Societies. Further measures were taken to ensure that no society would be able to continue with contact activities. In that regard. The Societies Council executive will release its long-term strategic plan that will ensure that the Societies Council continues to operate far beyond the crisis. Further details about the Corona Virus and the Council's response to it will be detailed in the long-term strategic document.

## **Executive functions**

below is a reflection on some of the activities which the Council executive has engaged in, in an effort to stabilize and professionalize the Council:

### ***Societies Council long term strategy.***

During the second term, in response to the lockdown measures which were a response to the threat of the Coronavirus the Societies Council Executive Committee resolved to suspend all in-contact activities until a time when we would assess the feasibility of such activities. We then resolved to adopt the long-term strategic framework as a plan that details how the Council would continue to function. This plan in essence divided the operations of the Council into four dimensions. The first two were: the administrative work of the Council and the Administrative work of the Societies, the last two were the contact activities of the Council and the Activities of the Societies. This document sought to give clear direction on how the Council and its





constituents were to continue to function in order to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Societies Council.

After this document was distributed the Societies Council executive sought to redesign our year plan in response to the needs of the time, in this regard we postponed all planning of in-contact activities indefinitely.

## **Societies Council governance**

As the governing structure of the Societies Council, The Executive Committee is responsible for ensuring that the Council functions efficaciously and productively, this duty entails amongst other things the task of ensuring compliance with the policies of the Societies Council and finally ensuring that the Societies Council fulfils its constitutional mandate. The following are the matters I dealt with in the course of terms in this regard:

### **Societies Council levies decision**

We cannot begin to express our frustration with this matter, but in essence just to give a brief background:

The ICBC, which is the institutional structure established to deal with the university's adjustment to COVID-19, determined that certain levies that are ordinarily deducted by the university would no longer be deducted in an effort to offer 'financial relief' to students. In the course of this decision, Society levies were reversed pending a determination to re-allocate the levies. The Societies Council was never consulted at any point on this decision and in the result, the ICBC used flawed reasoning to make its decision.





In light of the clear breach of policy and professional decency, the Societies Council vehemently rejected the decision and called for it to be reversed. As a result, the following was done by the Council in an effort to have the decision reversed.

- a. A collaboration with the Tygerberg Societies Council was sought in order to fight this injustice together as both structures would be negatively impacted by this matter.
- b. We sought the assistance of the SRC on the matter.
- c. We consulted student governance on a resolution to the matter, of which it was recommended that we should seek the support of the Senior Director of student affairs.
- d. We wrote a very strongly worded letter to Student Affairs asking them for assistance.
- e. The Senior director indicated that she would have an engagement with the vice-rector of learning and teaching on the matter.
- f. After this engagement, we received a response that indicated that either the letter by the Councils was either not read or not comprehended because the response was completely non-sensical.
- g. After this we further sought to engage with the Vice-rector of teaching and learning, this was done through proxy messages communicated during another meeting with him.
- h. The response to this further illuminated that the initial letter was not comprehended.





- i. The matter was tabled as a matter to be discussed at a meeting with the Rector's management team on the 21<sup>st</sup> of July. Both the Societies Council and the Tygerberg Societies Council participated in the discussion.
- j. After some heated exchanges, the rectorate conceded that adequate consultation should have been sought.
- k. The resolution was that the Societies Council working with Student Affairs would compile a comprehensive submission to the ICBC on the matter and would seek to ensure that all the relevant concerns of societies were the primary consideration when any decision was made.
- l. The Societies Council has submitted our representations to the Director of financial planning and budgeting, this communication is to act as a covering letter which motivates that in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, societies should be the ones that make this decision and that the ICBC must adopt the recommendations by societies without amendments.
- m. The meeting of the ICBC does discuss this matter will be held on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2020.
- n. The decision was rightfully overturned and the recommendations by Societies were adopted by the division of Finance.
- o. The Society levies have since been returned to their respective cost centres.

## **Student Governance relationship**

Another matter which was related to the functioning of the Societies Council was the issue of engaging Student Governance on the inefficient relationship between the two structures.





In this regard the Societies Council had noted that the role of Student Governance was not adequately defined, meaning that there was often unnecessary tension and difficulty in terms of how societies and the Societies Council executive understood and interacted with Student Governance. This was an assessment done after numerous complaints by societies were lodged with the executive in this regard, further the Executive Committee had equally sought to clarify the role of student governance. Following this, the Societies Council brought the matter up to the SRC of which several members equally indicated that they too had queries about the functions of Student Governance. In this regard, the SRC committed to writing a supporting document in favour of the request by the Societies Council.

In this regard the Societies Council wrote a letter to Student Affairs requesting:

- a. The Policy which establishes and empowers student governance.
- b. Clarity on the function and authority of Student governance.
- c. The jurisdiction of Student governance.
- d. Further engagement after the above is provided.

The dean of Students responded to our letter by indicating that indeed a policy that articulated the function, role, and power of Student Governance did not exist and that the office of Student Governance did not have a policy that established it. Rather than articulating these matters, the letter focused on addressing the concerns around the 'comportment' by Student Governance. In this regard, an urgent meeting was set with the SRC to discuss such matters. The Societies Council indicated that we requested another engagement to focus on the concerns of the Societies Council.





This engagement with Student Affairs was characterised by conspiracy theories and long-winded clarifications of how Student Governance is important. Ultimately the environment was highly adversarial and defensive resulting in an unproductive meeting.

When the Societies Council sought a date to have our own engagement, Student Affairs indicated that they were unwilling to have the engagement unless an agenda was sent for the matters to be discussed. The Societies Council sent a detailed agenda and further proposed dates. After this, Student Affairs requested that the Agenda be further articulated with exactly all the input that the Societies Council would give. The Societies Council executive determined that this was tantamount to a 'heads of argument' presented before a hearing and as the purpose of the engagement was not to argue but to construct a more effective relationship, we determined that Student Affairs was not only unwilling to have a productive engagement but that they were not ready for a full assessment of their existing structures. In this regard, the request was aborted, and the Executive Committee will seek an alternative platform to ensure that its concerns are addressed.

## **Elections**

### **Nominations**

As per the Societies Council Constitutions, elections of the Council Executive are organised and facilitated by the Chairperson and the SRC election convenors.





Nominations for the Positions on the Council executive were opened toward the end of the Second term. This resulted in all but 2 positions having candidates who were nominated.

## Elections

The Societies Council held its executive elections on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July 2020. The remaining vacancies were filled, and the New Council executive was duly declared. No appeals to the Election results were noted, therefore the results remain final.

## Handover

The Handover period for the New Societies Council executive began on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August 2020 and Concluded on the 14<sup>th</sup> of August. The handover has been comprehensive and will ensure that members of the Executive are well equipped to take over their duties.

## Conclusion

As the Executive Committee of the Societies Council 2019/2020, we would first like to give an immeasurable thanks to the members of the Council who trusted us with this awesome responsibility of leading our glorious Structure. As we part with our duties we are reminded by the words of Andrew Carnegie who stated that 'teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision, and the ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives' therefore as the Societies Executive Committee we have worked with one mind, one heart and one vision, which ultimately produced the results and success which we have enjoyed throughout our tenure. As we are now at the end of our tenure we glee at the commitment we have sustained in service to our constituency, achieving all the goals we had set out for



STUDENTERAAD  
STUDENTS'  
REPRESENTATIVE  
COUNCIL

Office: 3rd Floor Neelsie  
Tel: (021) 808 2491 / 2493  
E-mail: sr@sun.ac.za | stelliesrc@gmail.com



ourselves, despite the difficulties and obstacles that have come our way. We remained unshaken in our endeavour to overcome the challenges we faced. Knowing full well that our only sure reward for our sacrifice would be how history judged us for our deeds, We have, since the beginning kept to a simple principle: we work together, serve together and grow together, thus, surely we have succeeded together.

Thank you

Yanga Keva  
Chairperson: Societies Council  
Dated: 14 September 2020

