



## Student Parliament

*Accountability, Transparency and Consultative Governance*  
UNIVERSITEIT iYUNIVESITHI STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

# REPORT OF STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT PARLIAMENT COMMITTEE

# ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE CHAIR (DEPUTY SPEAKER INTERNAL) TERM REPORT



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## **1. Introduction:**

Under the Student Parliament Constitution, members of the Student Parliament are required to release a report on the activities for the previous term as set out in section

Detailed within this report is the activities fulfilled by myself as the Accountability Chair (Deputy Speaker Internal) of Student Parliament during the second term of the year of 2019.

## **2. Activities:**

### 2.1. Student Parliament Executive Committee Meetings:

During the term, the executive of the student parliament committee met on a frequent basis to discuss matters tabled forth on the agenda's as to how to proceed with the activities of Student Parliament for the term.

After having taken office at the start of the term, we met on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April as an executive to discuss the matters detailed in the minutes of the meeting which can be found on the Student Parliament website. We met that day to discuss a time for our second co-curricular training, to discuss possible dates for the meet and greet with the SRC, to discuss our year plan as a committee, to discuss the drafting of code of conducts for individual committees and to discuss when the elections of the remaining committee members would be which at that point in time were the Deputy Accountability Chair and the Communications officer.

The following meeting was on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April and the agenda discussed during this meeting was to discuss when we would be having our picture taking as committee which has not yet occurred to this day. Next, we discussed the policy unit and when they would meet. The next point of discussion was discussing the idea of an

accountability forum but after discussion with the speaker, I failed to see how such a forum would function and what exactly the powers of such a forum would be and thus decided that until we can outline a proper structure for such a forum, we cannot proceed with the formation of this forum. We then proceeded to discuss the idea of critical engagement session held by Student Parliament, dealt with some administration for the second sitting and discussed the agenda for the second sitting. We then had another meeting just before the second sitting of Student Parliament on the 2<sup>nd</sup> on May. This was our first meeting since the election of our remaining committee members and thus the Deputy Accountability Chair was also in attendance for that meeting. The discussion points for the meeting were once again when our committee pictures would be taken, the code of conducts for our committees, the idea of the critical engagement session, the second sitting, the orientation of our new committee members, feedback on our co-curricular training and our term reports and we provided some general feedback on our activities up until that point.

## 2.2. Second Annual Sitting of Student Parliament:

The second annual sitting of Student Parliament took place on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May 2019 and it was a rather heated session in my own opinion. The minutes of the sitting can be found on our website along with the agenda of the sitting. The sitting faced numerous challenges with the sitting having to be adjourned early due to the venue needing to be closed and thus the sitting is yet to resume in the third term. Only two of the agenda points tabled were discussed and those were the #NotAllMen Critical engagement which was held in Dagbreek Men's Residence and secondly the Register All Policy. It was an engaging session which took an ugly turn quickly with some members being asked to leave the house. Following the sitting, an article was released by Die Matie which spoke of the events of the sitting but also had an article by the Prim of Dagbreek in which he relays the speech he wanted to give to the house at the sitting. The date for the continuation of the sitting is yet to be confirmed.

### 2.3. SRC meetings:

During the term, I attended several SRC meetings as part of my duties in my role as the Deputy Speaker Internal (Accountability Chairperson) of Student Parliament as outlined in section 8 (1)(k) of the Student Parliament Constitution.

### 2.4. Co-curricular Sessions:

During the term, we as a student parliament committee attended several co-curricular training sessions as a part of the co-curricular program for Student Parliament. These sessions have proven to be very informative and very helpful in providing adequate training to help us better fulfil our individual roles within the committee. I have enjoyed all the sessions I have attended so far and look forward to continuing this process.

### 2.5. Tygerberg Student Parliament Sitting:

We were invited to attend the first sitting of Tygerberg Student Parliament on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April. This was an eye-opening experience for me since I had just been elected into office at this point in time. The Tygerberg Student Parliament Committee had brought the Tygerberg Student Representative Council forward to account before the house at this sitting and thus the session was very lively and full of discussion. It was a learning experience for all of us as a committee and from that session we picked up a few ideas on how to improve our sitting and make them livelier and how to encourage member engagement during the sittings.

### 2.6. Meet and Greet with SRC and Student Court:

I attended a meet and greet session with the SRC and Student court as a way of introducing ourselves to the other bodies of Student Governance. The session included a speech by Student Governance and the heads of Student Court, Student Parliament and the SRC, along with introductions and concluded with a social session.

## 2.7. Treasures Forum:

During the term, the speaker and deputy speakers as well as the treasurers of Student Parliament convened the first Treasures Forum of Student Parliament as outlined in section 8(5)(d) of the Student Parliament Constitution. This forum is chaired by the Executive Treasurer of Student Parliament and consists of treasurers from other various student bodies. The forum was a huge success with the first and second meeting proceeding smoothly and a third meeting coming up during the second semester of 2019.

## 2.8. Report on complaint brought forth to the Accountability Committee

During the term, I handled an investigation by the Accountable Committee on a complaint case brought forth by Addendum F of the Student Parliament Constitution. The complaint was about the Register All policy and the SUI (Stellenbosch University International) portfolio budget. The details of the investigation have been outlined in a report. The report was uploaded onto the website however new information not previously captured in the report was brought to light after the findings of the report were presented to the house at the second sitting and thus the report needs to be revised to fully reflect the new information. During the investigation I met with the complainant, the treasurer of the SRC and the vice-chair of the SRC. Upon completion of the report a copy was sent out to the Chair of Student Court as requested according to Addendum F of the Student Parliament Constitution.

## 2.9. Meeting with Chair of Student Court:

I met with the Chair of Student Court as part of my duties outlined in the Student Constitution. During the meeting I gave him an update on my report at the time.

### **3. Conclusion:**

The second term was an eye opening and challenging experience, but I learnt a lot and feel excited in fulfilling my duties in the upcoming term.

