



Student Parliament

Accountability, Transparency and Consultative Governance
UNIVERSITEIT iYUNIVESITHI STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

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Accountability Committee Deputy Chairperson Term 2 Report

Preamble

In terms of Chapter 2-part 2.1 point 4 of the Student Parliament Constitution the:

Deputy Chair of Accountability Committee

In conjunction with the AC Chair for setting up Accountability Forum.

Serve as coordinator of all task groups, discussion forums and ad hoc committees.

Ensuring that Accountability Forum's working schedules are updated and amended as per the processes within this Constitution.

Assist AC Chair in fulfilling his/her duties as delegated by AC Chair.

Attend all SRC meetings where possible.

Attend TSP meeting once a semester.

Attend TSR meetings at least once a semester

In terms of my above-mentioned duties upon my taking up of this position on 16 March 2022 I have successfully in conjunction with my Chairperson been able to setup the accountability committee for the 2022 year. I also serve as an executive committee member of student parliament as an additional member on the committee.

I have also attended a TSP meeting on 30 May 2022. This was attended at the Tygerberg campus with the rest of the Student Parliament committee.

I have also attended all SRC meetings as constitutionally mandated on 6 April, 20 April, 4 May, 11 May, 19 May, and 20 July 2022.

Projects

Reporting on SRC and ad hoc members termly reports:

Societies Council

Accountability Committee Investigations.

Termly Review of Reports:

This Past Term I have begun on the review of SRC and ex-officio member reports for their termly reports. Where discrepancies were noticed we liaised with the relevant parties to ensure proper feedback and effective accountability. There were not too many discrepancies to note, however. The committee did seek clarity in terms of the reports of the Safety and security manager, Transformation officer, Branding Manager, Leadership and development manager, Societies Council chairperson, Student Wellness manager, International Student Manager. These points of clarity where merely to clear out ambiguity and not an inquiry of any nature.

There were certain members that had reports that were quite delayed, and these delays were followed up on and proper reasons given.

Accountability Committee Investigations:

The accountability has received a number of complaints during the second term and has done proper jurisprudence on each case and accepted that which falls within its authority and is constitutionally empowered to deal with.

Institutional Forum:

A complaint was lodged with the accountability committee against student leaders that sit on the institutional forum. As per the student parliament constitution it is our mandate to assess the complaint. The committee seeks to first ensure that internal procedures are followed by members before complaints are lodged with the committee. Upon investigation and feedback from the institutional forum the committee found that the forum has continued with its own internal processes and would use its own internal processes to deal with the nature of the complaint. The committee therefore decided that the matter would not need its attention as an internal process had already been ongoing.

Huis Marais:

The last week before the examination period has seen Stellenbosch campus shocked by the atrocious racist incident that took place at Huis Marais when Babalo Ndwayana's belongings were urinated on by Theuns Du Toit. Upon receiving the complaint the AC made it priority to respond to the complaint timeously and performed the necessary due diligence based on the facts present upon reaching out the affected party the AC had come to the conclusion that it would be rendered superfluous for us to continue with our own investigation given the current ongoing investigation carried out by the centre for student communities. The AC also viewed that the centre would have more resources at its disposal to carry out a more comprehensive investigation and therefore it believed the current investigation would suffice.

Hate Speech:

The AC received a complaint of Hate Speech against a house committee member in a certain women's residence on campus. The matter was referred to the AC after consultation with the equality unit who has subsequently closed the investigation. The AC after considering the complaint has taken the necessary steps to investigate and conclude on the matter and will seek to have the matter finalised soon.

Remarks

The past term has been a busy one for the AC and have been receiving the bulk of our complaints at the later half of the semester this has resulted in complaints still being under investigation and awaiting conclusions before the start of the next semester. The Ac does not want to compromise the decision it comes to in these complaints and will therefore continue to perform proper due diligence in this regard.

The review of term reports has also been running quite smoothly, although there were some late reports this has been communicated to the relevant parties that this is not acceptable. The AC has also done proper follow up and can say that the SRC work has been made at a satisfactory level.

Recommendations

I do believe that we could see some more cooperation from members when complaints are lodged to the committee and that complainants and accused take the duties of the AC more

seriously and I therefore do believe that some policy in this regard will need to be formed to ensure that all parties in disputes respect the processes of the AC.

Conclusion

The term has been a fruitful one overall and we have seen a lot of progress in terms of investigations and holding leaders accountable as the AC. The later part of the term has been congested, but the AC has found enough time to work through all of this. The AC has continued to perform its duty as constitutionally mandated and as deputy chair, I do feel we have carried out our duties successfully.

Kind regards,

William Villet

Student Parliament: Deputy Chairperson Accountability Committee.