



Student Parliament

Accountability, Transparency and Consultative Governance
UNIVERSITEIT IYUNIVESITHI STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

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Deputy Speaker and Secretary General Term Report 1

Preamble

On 17 February 2022 I was elected as the Deputy Speaker (external) Secretary General of Student Parliament. It gave me great privilege to have been elected as the suitable and perfect candidate for the portfolio and I was in great excitement to start the journey. I was deeply appreciative towards the Speaker of the House I serve, for the confidence he had shown by bringing me into this House. After being elected I immediately, in the best of my ability tried to familiarize myself with the business and procedures of this house, to make sure I do a great job in meeting the requirements, goals, mandate and objectives of this portfolio. But at the same time ensuring that we keep student structures to account, transparent and improve consultative governance.

The ultimate role of this portfolio is to keep the house running by having institutional memory and to remind colleagues about what our mandate is. Another main priority of this portfolio is to ensure that the administration is in good order. Thus, making sure meetings are well planned, with clear agendas and well documented minutes are reported and shared with the student-community. At the same time, this portfolio holder, is also chairing the Policy Unit. Thus, conducting meetings with elected delegates and hosting and facilitating discussions, platforms, and support for their irrespective policies in communities. Please be advised that I'm writing this report in a transfer format since I'm resigning from this portfolio after submitting it. I thus, hope that the next person filling this role will from this report have a good foundation and understanding of where this portfolio but also parliament is standing now

Projects

Reflection on Committee Appointments

Out of transparency and understanding for certain issues, please allow me to elaborate on appointments of Student Parliament Committee Members: Because I was, (with many of my other colleagues) appointed late in the term, many issues were delayed. Such as submission of delegate names: Many of the student structures were either late with their submission or did not send any submission at all. Warnings were issued to these bodies for not complying to rules of this house. Upon which many of these bodies rejected the warnings due to Student Parliament's "poor communication" around this matter. Thus, a huge delay occurred in knowing who the

mandated delegates are. This made my job a bit difficult and challenging as the Chief Administrator of this house. This also made us have a delay in hosting our first ordinary sitting – which I will elaborate on later in this report.

First Sitting

It is the job of this portfolio holder to arrange and set up sittings: Initially 15th March 2022 was decided on as the date for the opening of student parliament. Unfortunately, it got postponed due to logistical and constitutional errors. These errors included poor communication about the date and agenda point requests to the broader student-community. 22 March 2022 was proclaimed as the new date for the first ordinary sitting. The initial venue we got for the 15th were not available for the 22nd. This portfolio head was tasked to invite the former speaker of the National Assembly or the current Speaker of the National Assembly as Keynote Speaker. None of the two were available. This portfolio head tried reaching out to the current Chief Justice and Vice Chancellor of UCT – both were unavailable as guests. The Speaker of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament (WCPP) was thus invited as guest. This portfolio head requested for the WCPP to use its chambers for the sitting. The WCPP approved but Student Governance suggested better planning for such trip. The first sitting was held at the SRC Boardroom, with limited guests and the Keynote Speaker

Bicameral Rules

The new Student Constitution refers to the establishment of two new houses, namely, Student Imbizo and Student Assembly. The previous Student Parliament Leadership 2021 were supposed to set up structures etc to create the rules and procedures of these two houses. The previous team could not meet the deadline and thus, the SRC took the job in their own hands and established two task teams at the beginning of this year. I believe that Speaker of this house will be elaborating more about this in his report. Nonetheless, this portfolio holder is currently serving on the Student Assembly Task Team as a member.

Merchandise

The committee agreed on getting new blazers. Initially the idea was to get black blazers, however, Corporate Branding was against the idea as it stands in the way of “decolonisation”. As a team we tried our best to convince Corporate Branding and Matie Shop, however, it did not work. Thus, we had to accept getting maroon blazers. Currently, Matie Shop is still waiting on their suppliers before they can quote SP. Student Parliament also requested white hoodies, with Student Parliament embroidered in Afrikaans, English and isiXhosa, we are still awaiting a quote for Matie Shop. SP also requested name badges, which was approved by Student Governance after receiving the quote from Matie Shop. The next Sec-Gen will have to liaise with Denielle for the further communication and processing of this project.

New Logo

Since Stellenbosch University (SU) went through a huge rebranding process, all structures that have the “SU Leave” on their logos are also no longer recognized and thus, not valid. Should be recreated as well. I have already contacted Corporate Branding about this. Please contact Nastasja for more information and follow-ups.

Student Court x Student Parliament Policy Workshop

Student Court decided to host a policy workshop this year. After meeting with my predecessor who is now serving as the Deputy Chief Justice of Student Court, we decided to collab on it. Thus, as the Policy Chair, I made the workshop compulsory for all members serving on the Unit. The workshop will be taking place on the 22nd of April 2022. Please confirm further details with Student Court.

Recommendations

It was a great privilege being part of the team and ensuring transparency, accountability, and consultative governance where we could. I wish the team Goodluck and great success for the rest of the year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'W. Sezoe', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

William Sezoe

Deputy Speaker: Secretary General