



Student Parliament

Accountability, Transparency and Consultative Governance
UNIVERSITEIT IYUNIVESITHI STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

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Tygerberg Speaker and Chairperson Term Report 1

Preamble

This report outlines the tasks and duties taken upon by myself, the speaker of Tygerberg Student Parliament, in fulfilling my mandate as the TSP Speaker. As per the constitution my role is highlighted as follows:

- This role is fulfilled by the democratically elected Speaker.
- Ensures that Tygerberg Student Parliament takes place.
- To preside over meetings of Tygerberg Student Parliament impartially and in such a manner as to promote orderly and democratic debate.
- Ultimately responsible to ensure that an agenda is compiled and marketed to all students at least one (1) week before Tygerberg Student
- Parliament takes place.
- Ultimately responsible to ensure that the minutes of Student Parliament are made available not more than two (2) weeks after each meeting.
- Acts as spokesperson for Tygerberg Student Parliament and the Tygerberg
- Student Parliament Committee.
- Is ultimately responsible for the finances of the Tygerberg Student Parliament.
- Attend all TSR meetings where possible.
- Meet with TSR Chairperson at least once a month.
- Attend Student Parliament Committee meetings.

In essence, my duty is to ensure Tygerberg Student Parliament is an operational structure that engages with both students and student leaders ensuring transparent governance for the students. This is achieved by creating a platform for orderly debates to take place, i.e., the first sitting. Ensuring the functionality and efficacy of the TSP by facilitating meetings amongst

internal and external structures of the TSP as well as attending meetings in representation of the TSP.

Activities

In the 4th Term I was elected as Speaker of Tygerberg Student Parliament.

A handover was provided by the outgoing Speaker and Deputy Speaker as well as introductions to Student governance highlighting the duties needed to be fulfilled during my term as Speaker of TSP.

Relations between the speakers of T/SP was highlighted as a priority to improve communication between both campuses. This was a success after various meetings with Student Parliament's Speaker.

Meetings regarding the interpretation of the new Student Parliament Constitution had commenced between both T/SP speakers in the 4th Term as well as discussions of our preparation for the new term.

Election of Executive Committee Members

This process commenced in January 2022. The positions were advertised via, mass mails as well as the TSP Instagram page. In these communications details of how to apply and who can apply was disclosed.

On the 24th of January, I had received a total of 6 applications for 4 spots on the committee. The interview process was held online via MS Teams. Sitting on the interview panel with me was former Deputy Speaker of the TSP Mr Mnyandu and Speaker of Stellenbosch Student Parliament, Mr Peterson. Student Governance, Mr Mpanza was in attendance as an additional member.

The challenge I faced during this process was: 2 outgoing committee members reapplied to be part of the committee for 2022, therefore they were unable to sit on the interview panel. Speaker Peterson was then added as an additional member of the Interview Panel and was allowed to participate and question the applicants. The decision and voting process was completed by Mr Mnyandu and me.

The election of the TSPEC was a success. An introductory meeting was shortly followed on the 27th of January with the TSP executive committee.

First Sitting and Meeting the Student Parliament Committee

This event took place on the 15th of March

The first sitting was online with the Student Parliament Executive Committee joining us in-person.

A tour of Tygerberg Campus was given to SP as well as refreshments were served. The formal introduction of both committees was a success.

Planning for the 1st sitting was done at a few committee meetings. Advertising the 1st Sitting was one of our priorities to ensure that student engagement was made. We used mass mail, WhatsApp student groups as well as our Instagram page to share the logistics of the 1st sitting and the opening of agenda points.

One of the challenges faced in this domain was receiving feedback from students with regards to the agenda points. We eventually received 2 additional points, but this was after the submission of the final agenda to the student body. The decision to add this onto agenda was made by the executive committee seeing as the points were pertaining to a sudden event and important issue.

To encourage students to join the 1st sitting, I made communication with various residences to offer up to all students attend. The TSP communication's officer had a random draw of all students in attendance to win a R150 voucher. Attendance was suitable but more effort will be put into the 2nd Term to improve student attendance.

The sitting was a success filled with robust conversation and debate on matters brought up. Challenges faced here was the addition of 2 extra points to the agenda as well as a call of order had to be made amongst the committee, an apology was made. It was later discovered that there is an addendum for emergency points in the Student Parliament Constitution but not attached to the original document.

There will be improvements to the Sitting made in the 2nd Term, with a possible in person session.

Commencement of Student Parliament Constitutional Review

Renewal of the Student Parliament's Constitution was set to be done by the end of September last year. However, this duty was not fulfilled, which has now resulted in the responsibility to be transferred to the SRC policy officer.

Meetings discussing a way forward with the task team Constitutional Review Committee of last year, resulted in the formation of a Task Team to produce rules for the Student Parliament's, Student Imbizo and Student Assembly. The Team has been divided up into 2 whereby the SRC policy Officer Chairs the Task Team, Student Parliament Speaker oversees the drafting of the Student Imbizo rules and TSR policy officer oversees the drafting of Student Assembly rules.

The difficulties faced with this agreement is that of academic obligations and individual availability poses a problem. Communication within the Task Team also needs improvement. The target deadline was aimed for the end of April however due to the constraints this deadline may have to be extended.

Meetings with the Tygerberg Student Representative Council Chairperson

Meeting with the TSR Chair have proven to be quite fruitful. There is adequate communication within these meetings enabling the TSP to remain updated on matters such as the priority points and other concerns being raised by the students. The only challenge faced here is again academic obligations and availability between the TSR Chair and me, however we were able thus too far to schedule around each other.

Conclusion

To conclude, it has been a successful Term but with every structure there is room for improvement and efficacy. In the next term, I hope to improve student engagement and communication to ensure that the 2nd sitting is robust and filled with student debate to improve the student environment.

X 

Kaitlyn Naidoo

Speaker and Chairperson: Tygerberg Student P...