



STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL  
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# SRC 2021/22 TERM REPORT I ARTS AND CULTURE

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## GERRARD DAMONS – KuKo – 22551999@SUN.AC.ZA

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## Constitutional Responsibilities

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KuKo is a compulsory portfolio as set out in the Student Constitution under s28(5)(c), however, no further responsibilities or detail is provided within the Constitution to the specific portfolio. As a SRC manager my duties and responsibilities are provided in s36 which require me to run the KuKo Portfolio which include the organisation and administration function of the portfolio. s36(8) requires a manager to attend at minimum, one SRC Meeting per academic term. In such a meeting, I am required to report all of my activities within the said meeting.

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## Portfolio Overview

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KuKo is required to organise at least the following events:

- Molasseser
- Toneelfees- take note that Toneelfees is being renamed.\*
- Debating
- SUAC
- Variety Show

Furthermore, the portfolio must facilitate intentional transformation in their events

However, with this kept in mind, KuKo is much more than simply an events planning committee. KuKo is responsible for the promotion and facilitating of providing arts and cultural projects that are not only beneficial to a student's well being but also to help celebrate student identities, cultures and many stories of their time at Stellenbosch University.

KuKo holds the responsibility as one of the only arts and cultural student body, to provide events and projects that are in line with the SRC mandate namely being; holistic wellness, education and accessibility. KuKo is also bound to ensure that their events are all inclusive and help represent the culture of students of Stellenbosch University. Therefore, KuKo is responsible for ensuring that there are platforms for students to be able to express themselves through the various mediums of the cultural arts which include but are not limited to, visual arts, music, dramatic arts, dance, literature and many other forms...

Let it be noted that KuKo should not limit themselves solely to the above events but are encouraged to work on collaborative projects with other SRC portfolios as well as promote and design new yearly projects that they feel shall help promote arts and culture on campus.



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## Committees/Task Teams

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### Student Achievement Committee

- The committee forms part of the process in awarding Rectors Awards for Excellence to students.
- We have not had a meeting yet.

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## Term Overview

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### Forming the KuKo Executive Committee:

To start off I set out acquiring my Executive Committee. Due to time constraints but also covid-19 I decided it would be best to set the meetings via Ms Teams.

### A new attempt at an idea:

I had consulted with the previous chairperson, Rewaldo Carolus, for advice in selecting a good team. During that time upon consultation with the SRC Chairperson Viwe Kobokana and Chris Briel, the Wellness member, we had come up with a concept known as The Scream which essentially was composed of providing a hour in the evening daily to find a space outside to scream and let out their frustrations during final examinations of 2021 as a method of maintain mental health and reinforcing positive performative emotional expression. Although many students had enjoyed it, there was a concerned raised by students in terms of the safety of the event due to Stellenbosch crime rate and recent muggings of students, the event was put on a hold in order to find out from SRC safety and security if the event would be viable, unfortunately due to the harsh rates of student muggings during the time The Scream was set, the event has been cancelled and shall not take place in the future. Possible solutions I had provided for the event was to set up designated screaming spots, for the scream to be set at a earlier hour and for security to be present at the event. I am both grateful that I could attempt such a unique and different project for KuKo to help run. I very much encourage the next KuKo Chair to continue to push boundaries in the performative arts events.

### Early work with the KuKo Executive Committee:

Prior to the first meeting, I sent the newly appointed members a copy of the KuKo Constitution for them to read through their various roles and responsibilities so that they could present to the rest of the Executive. This was to help all members to understand their purpose and to be held accountable for their role within KuKo. The KuKo Constitution had not, in its entirety been updated since 2019. The only change made was to the KuKo logos to which we were grateful for but that tasked us to set up a Constitution Committee to plan to revise the KuKo Constitution and to release it to students within the first academic term of 2022.

The next few meetings I had provided the Executive with my year plan and described the vision of KuKo 2022. We had come to revise KuKo to include two concepts of KuKo competitive arts and cultural arts which essentially split projects and events that were either dedicated to the art of comradery and competition within culture (e.g. SUAC and Molasseser) and then in terms of cultural arts projects that were solely devoted to helping to promote the investigation and exploration of the culture of Stellenbosch University students. (e.g. Variety show and other new projects).

Once my Executive Committee had been formed we went about setting up the Culture House Committee Group on Whatsapp in which we added all of the members of various student communities.

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### External consultations and collaborations:

I contacted the arts and culture portfolio holder of the Military campus (Bonolo) and Tygerberg campus. I set up a meeting with the Tygerberg Campus Culture rep, Anele Madiya, to discuss a possible culture project for Tygerberg Campus for which we are yet to have further meetings on. Upon consultation with Bonolo, she had invited the SRC to the Investiture Day on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February as well as the Mr and Mrs Academy event which shall take place on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February to which we had accepted and is yet to take place. I have arranged the booking of vehicles and am currently arranging food and accommodation for the SRC's attendance. I have also contacted the WAQE portfolio holder to discuss a collaborative project for a spoken poetry, word, and literature evening during Pride month. I had also made contact with the chairperson of Musicultus for a collaboration in terms of SU acapella, our executive later had a meet and greet via teams to discuss the overall vision and planning for SU acapella.

### Planning for 2022 events:

During November and December of 2021, I had set up meetings with the Executive to firstly review the current projects KuKo had planned but also to scrutinise and update the entry documents, rules, and manner of the KuKo events. I set these meetings out in three phases during the weeks of December 2021 and into January of 2022. In Phase 1, each project manager met with the Chair, Vice-chair, and Secretary to present their project. This included the prescribed rules, entry form document, and the overall manner of the project (e.g., the decided venue, way in which the event takes place, is a theme necessary). Phase 2 was the same members meeting but with the treasurer of KuKo for any financial scrutiny and making sure the requisition number on the documents were correct as well as any possible ideas to obtain more funding. In Phase 3, the various project managers presented their projects to the whole Executive for final scrutiny and review. The Executive double checked and asked any questions to the project managers that they may have missed. With this, I made a checklist for the project managers to use as a reference and asked the project managers to attach a contact to each part of the checklist so that they knew exactly who to contact when the time came for getting a venue and equipment.

During the same period, our Constitutional Committee revised KuKo's Constitution. We shall soon be revising all schedules and addendums too. For every chapter that the committee had edited, the changes were sent to the rest of the executive to review and supply any of their commentaries to the changes to be considered weekly by the committee.

The KuKo Executive had made various changes to current projects that KuKo had in order to bring it more in line with the SRC mandate as well as to adjust the vision for KuKo's future. A few of these changes include supplying a theme to both Mollasseser and Toneelfees. This was due to the fact that these two projects seemed to lack direction in terms of it being intentionally transformational in the way that art is expressed. For Mollasseser we used the broad theme of Identity for groups to perform about, this was due to the inherent lack of originality and toxic behaviour traits such as heavy drinking culture that had been encouraged in previous Mollasseser performances. We hope that this theme will help student communities gain a better sense of belonging while expressing themselves artistically. Toneelfees on the other hand, had been decided to be renamed by the executive, firstly due to the fact that students did not

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have a thorough enough understanding of what Toneelfees meant and also due to the Afrikaans names that had been given to the KuKo projects. Upon consultation with the Language Centre of Stellenbosch University, we decided to rename Toneelfees to officially be now known as the **Palesa Festival**. Palesa in Sesotho means blooming or flowering, we felt it better describes this festival to not limit it solely to strict traditional theatre but allow students to express storytelling in many different ways to help make this project not only more inclusive but more interesting, vibrant with colour and new/fresh growing ideas much as metaphorically flowers are when they bloom. We have also provided a theme for the festival titled "Life in our versatile town" which is essentially asking students to tell stories of their experiences as a student and within the Stellenbosch community. We want students to talk about students and what it means to be part of this vibrant diverse culture. Palesa festival is also officially the first African Language name given to a KuKo project, this is of permanence and is not to be subject to change back to Toneelfees.

### Communication with the Culture HCs:

Near the beginning of January, we then sent out provisional dates of our events to the Culture HCs as well as a document explaining our intention of communication for the year which has been decided to be done via discord. We also contacted Musicultus to devise a list of SU acapella coaches and composers that was then sent to the HCs if any of them were still struggling to find information. With most of our rules and entry forms done, we were able to send out the documents for term 1 to the culture HCs which was for Mollasseser and Debating. This allowed them to read it before the HC forum which is set to take place in February. Upon planning for our HC forum, we fell into an issue trying to find a venue due to the slow responses from members of various faculties to attempt to book a lecture room for our forum. In the end I had to make a call to use the SRC boardroom instead, however, I notified the Culture HCs space was limited so they had the option of attending the forum either online or in person.

During the month of late January and now into February full work and planning has been taking place for Mollasseser and Debating. We have provisionally gotten venues and equipment booked via CECO as well as acquired further information on tickets via a meeting I had with Quicket. I am meeting with a CECO member to do a site inspection of the Adam Small Theatre lab along with my Vice chair and Project Manager to possibly host the Palesa Festival in that building instead of the Drosdy Theatre.





## Plans for next term

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For the next term we are planning the following:

1. Visit to the Military Campus Investiture day and Mr and Mrs Academy:
  - a. Investiture Day: 12<sup>th</sup> February
  - b. Mr and Mrs Academy: 19<sup>th</sup> February
2. Mollasseser:
  - a. Prelims: 2 March
  - b. Finals: 11 March
3. Debating:
  - a. 18<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup> March
4. 2<sup>nd</sup> Culture HC forum to take place soon after Debating (TBD)
5. Further meetings with Anele to plan for the Tygerberg cultural project.
6. Further meetings with Musicultus for SU Acapella.



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## Recommendations to improve the portfolio

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Currently the portfolio seems to be running quite well, the only issue I would say needs improvement is communication between my two social media and marketing managers, there seems to be an issue of communication which has slowed down our possibility of promotion for KuKo, thus we shall set up a meeting between them to discuss this issue of communication and ways to improve it for the future.

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