



Stellenbosch

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SRC

Students' Representative Council
Ibhunga elimele abafundi
Studenteraad



SRC TERM 2 REPORT

SRC Treasurer



Students' Representative Council

Third Floor, Neelsie Student Centre

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Queen Majikijela – SRC Treasurer – queenmaj@sun.ac.za



Foreword

Dear Maties,

I would firstly like to thank everyone for being active citizens by partaking in the 2022 SRC elections.

As the Treasurer of the Student Representative Council, I am thrilled to have the opportunity to serve my fellow students and contribute to the betterment of our community. It is an honor to be entrusted with the responsibility of managing the financial affairs of the council, and I am grateful for the support and confidence placed in me by my fellow council members.

In this role, I am committed to upholding the principles of transparency, accountability, and integrity, and to ensuring that the financial resources of the council are used wisely and effectively. I believe that sound financial management is essential for the success of any organization, and I am excited to work with my colleagues to develop and implement strategies that will support our goals and priorities.

I look forward to collaborating with the rest of the council and engaging with the broader student community to identify and address the key issues and challenges facing our student community. I believe that by working together and leveraging our collective strengths and expertise, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of our fellow students and contribute to a more vibrant and inclusive campus community.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as treasurer of the Student Representative Council and am excited to embark on this journey with my colleagues.

Constitutional Responsibilities

According to the student constitution by constitutional responsibilities are the following:

- 1) As the SRC Treasurer, the Constitutional Responsibilities imposed on me can be subdivided between that of a general SRC Member, a SRC Executive member, and my portfolio as the Treasurer. Section 27 of the Student Constitution provides the core functions of the SRC, and as the overarching provision of responsibilities, it trickles down to all its members.
- 2) I, as an SRC Member, am thus trusted with serving in the best interest of the students at Stellenbosch University (SU) in general and specifically by evaluating and deliberating on university policies, formulating, and maintaining internal policies, and serving on Institutional Committees for the betterment of the student populace.
- 3) As the SRC Treasurer, section 28 of the Student Constitution imposes on me:
 - (a) The responsibility to ensure that the financial resources of the SRC are used in a transparent, responsible, and sustainable manner.
 - (b) The responsibility for formulating policies that ensure the transparent, responsible, and sustainable use of the SRC's financial resources, and ensuring the implementation of such policies after they are approved by the SRC.
 - (c) The responsibility for preparing the draft SRC budget for consideration by the SRC Executive Committee.
 - (d) Is responsible for providing a financial report at the end of their term.
- 4) In Layman's terms, the Treasurer can be regarded as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO). As an SRC Executive Member, section 41 imposes on me the responsibility to assist in managing the day to-day matters of the SRC, approving, and amending the SRC Budget, and assisting in important decision-making under urgent circumstances.

Portfolio Overview

- 1) Although the Student Constitution provides a broad description of the duties and responsibilities imposed on the SRC Treasurer, it does not necessarily provide for all of the functional day-to-day

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duties and responsibilities. The exact role and functioning of the SRC Treasurer derive from precedent and traditional workings and can therefore be divided into 4 main categories. Firstly, the SRC Treasurer is solely responsible for compiling the SRC's Budget – final approval and amendments are performed by the whole Executive Committee, but the Treasurer is also responsible for its actual drafting and upkeep.

- 2) Secondly, the SRC Treasurer is ultimately responsible for the transparent, responsible, and sustainable managing of the SRC's financial resources. This includes assisting all the various portfolios with drafting and approving their relevant transactions, formulating and updating internal financial policies, and adhering to institutional financial policies to ensure that all transactions and financial happenings successfully meet certain criteria in order to be regarded as legit.
- 3) Thirdly, the SRC Treasurer is responsible for the financial reporting aspect of the SRC – not only with regards to a financial report distributed to the student populace at the end of my term, but also with regards to internal financial reporting to the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Student Governance.

Committees/Task Teams

I serve on the following Committees and or Task Teams:

Student Debt Working Group:

The Student Debt Working Group (SDWG), as it currently stands, is merely an institutional task team and not yet recognised as an Institutional Committee but will be subject to formal legitimisation later in the year and is therefore included in this section. The SDWG is drafted each January with the aim to assist students struggling to settle their historical debt from previous academic years and therefore unable to register for the new academic year. The SDWG has certain criteria but mainly looks at the merits of each case - such as household income, household circumstances, academic performance, etc.

The team was formally drafted in January 2023 and comprised of myself, together with various stakeholders from relevant University structures – such as the Centre for Bursaries and Loans (CUBL), Postgraduate Office, Stellenbosch University International (SUI) service centre, the Alumni Office, and the Student Fees Department. My involvement in the SDWG involved the responsibility to act and serve as the median between the students and the SDWG, to formulate the SDWG form and finally to capture and present each student's case. The formal workings of the SDWG during the 2023 Registration Period will be depicted in the SRC's report on Registration 2023.

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Senate:

As an elected member, I serve on the Senate of the University. The role of this Statutory body is to be responsible for being accountable to the Council for the academic and research functions of the University and to perform such other functions as may be delegated or assigned to it by the Council. The Senate is recognised by Chapter 2 of the SU Statute as a governance structure. In essence, it is the highest academic decision-making body of the institution.

It is chaired by the rector and vice-chancellor of SU, Prof Wim de Villiers, and is most notably comprised of all full professors, deans, and vice-deans, as well as the Rectorate of SU. The Student Representative Council SRC is afforded four representatives on Senate. The powers and functions of the Senate are derived from the SU Statute. This institutional committee had a meeting on 24 March 2023, however due to the agenda and contents of Senate meetings being confidential, I am unable to disclose the details of the meeting.

Bursaries and Loans:

The institutional Bursaries as Loans Committee aims to deliberate and discuss matters pertaining to Bursaries and Loans of both Undergraduate and Postgraduate students.

A meeting for this committee took place on 2 March 2023 and the following matters were discussed:

- Move for food
- Vice-Chancellor awards for 2023- Criteria

This committee was set to have another meeting take place on 13 April 2023, however due to no agenda points being submitted the meeting had to be cancelled.

Term I Overview

During my second term in office, I have appointed and established an SRC internal financial committee to help regulate the internal financial policies of the SRC. This committee will be responsible for holding SRC Members and managers accountable in the usage of their budgets.

The following members of the SRC have been appointed to be part of the internal committee:

- Masilo Silokazi – SRC Chairperson
- William Sezoe – SRC Vice- Chairperson
- Banzi Bottoman – SRC Policy Officer

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Plans for Next Term

As mentioned in my previous term report, I want to host a financial literacy workshop for treasurers of the ex-officio structures on the SRC, to equip ourselves on how to formulate a financial report. I am planning to collaborate with Student Governance and the Financial Division of the university in facilitating the training.

I have thus been in communication with Student Governance to assist me in facilitating this workshop/training, Student Governance has committed themselves in facilitating this before the end of the academic term. With thus being said, the following workshop/training will be taking place this term and a date will be shared later towards workshop/training.