



Stellenbosch

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SRC

Students' Representative Council
Ibhunga elimele abaFundi
Studenteraad

SRC TERM 3 REPORT

AAC CHAIRPERSON



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Foreword

Dear Maties,

What a term! We completed term 2 by sealing off the semester with an examination period. I can only imagine that this term demanded dedication, perseverance and tenacity. This term has been particularly exciting for faculties as we saw numerous faculty initiatives and activities.

Term 2 is always a season of change, with starting with the weather and ending with the neverending search for a good spot in the library or the Jan Mouton. This term was a particular challenge in light of Eskom's electricity crisis, but I must admit that the student body's dedication to excellence despite this was truly inspiring.

It is my hope that we come back next term refreshed, excited and inspired.

It is always an honour to serve this community!

- Emma x

Constitutional Responsibilities

As per the SU statute

Definitions 68. In this Statute, unless the context indicates otherwise –

“**Academic Affairs Council**” means a body established by the SRC to promote academic matters on behalf of students;

As per the SRC constitution

CHAPTER 4: THE STUDENTS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Part 4.1: General

25. Composition of the Students' Representative Council

The Students' Representative Council consists of the following members:

- (1) Nine (9) members are elected by the students in terms of the provisions of CHAPTER 3 of this Constitution.
- (2) The Chairperson of the Academic Affairs Council.

As per the AAC Constitution

Chapter 3: Duties and Functioning of the Academic Affairs Council

(8) Duties and Functions

1) The Chairperson of the Academic Affairs Council –

- (a) Facilitating Academic Affairs Council meetings, in consultation with the SecretaryGeneral;
 - i) All official correspondence to and from the Academic Affairs Council;
 - ii) Passing on the minutes to the Students' Representative Council Chairperson;

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- iii) Compiling the annual report of the Academic Affairs Council.
 - (b) Is responsible for representing the Academic Affairs Council, either in their own capacity or by virtue of a representative if the Chairperson is unavailable, on the following committees:
 - iv) Timetable Committee of the Academic Planning Committee;
 - v) Academic Planning Committee of Senate;
 - vi) Committee of Learning and Teaching;
 - vii) Any other institutional committee which stipulates that the Chairperson of the Academic Affairs Council must act as a representative on said committee, and; ^[1]_{SEP}
- In fulfilling the duties in section 8(1)(b)(i)-(iv), the Chairperson is required to obtain input from the Academic Affairs Council and report back to the Academic Affairs Council.
- (c) Must meet with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Learning and Teaching on a monthly basis.
 - (d) Must oversee the finances of the Academic Affairs Council, in consultation with the Treasurer.
 - (e) Is an *ex-officio* member of the Students' Representative Council and, as such, is responsible for keeping the Students' Representative Council apprised of activities of the Academic Affairs Council.
 - (f) Must write and submit a satisfactory term report.
 - (g) Is responsible for convening special or emergency meetings where necessary.
 - (h) During their term of office, may not be a member of a Faculty Student Committee or of the Tygerberg Academic Affairs Council.
 - (i) Facilitates the discussion and addressing of academic and other matters of communal interest that fall within the sphere of academia at Stellenbosch University and empowers the members of the respective Faculty Student Committees, and the

members of the Tygerberg Academic Affairs Council, to represent and inform students effectively.

Portfolio Overview

General-elect

As per the preamble of the Academic Affairs Council constitution, the Academic Affairs Council of Stellenbosch University commits to actively promoting the rights of students as contained in Chapter 2 of the Student Constitution, to quality education, academic support, and transparent and justifiable assessment procedures. Further, the Academic Affairs Council strives to protect and further the academic interests of all students, by promoting a transformative teaching and learning experience, enabling academic success, and developing graduate attributes, with the aim of establishing a thriving academic project which facilitates student retention. We dedicate ourselves to achieving this mandate, whilst setting an example of Professional conduct in the pursuit of academic excellence for all students.

As per section 8 of the Academic Affairs Council Constitution, the Chairperson of the Academic Affairs Council is responsible for the following administrative arrangements, including,

- (i) Facilitating Academic Affairs Council meetings, in consultation with the Secretary-General;
- (ii) All official correspondence to and from the Academic Affairs Council;
- (iii) Passing on the minutes to the Students' Representative Council Chairperson;
- (iv) Compiling the annual report of the Academic Affairs Council.

SRC executive

The AAC Chairperson is an ex officio member of the SRC and thus, as per section 30 of the Student Constitution, an ex officio member of the SRC –

- (1) May, in addition to their ex officio position, only accept one other portfolio on whether that portfolio is compulsory or not.
- (2) May not accept any other portfolios if they serve on the Executive Committee of the SRC.

The Executive meets on a weekly basis and has scheduled meetings with DSAF and Rectorate. Accurate detail hereof can be provided by the SRC Secretary-General, Miss Phiwokule Qabaka.

Committees/Task Teams

During my third term of office, I sat on the Academic Planning Committee, Committee of Learning and Teaching, Welcoming Planning Committee, Vice-Deans Forum, Co-Curricula Recognition Committee, Quality Committee, and Timetable Committee.

I also formed part of the DSAf Self-Evaluation and Reflection Committee, Workstream regarding the electricity crisis during exams, served as a CirCore member, and thus attended the workshop, served on the Disciplinary Creep Task Team Workstream on the compulsory core module embedded in processes of academic renewal - CIRCoRe Workstream Meeting, attended the ELETSA seminar and served on the Disciplinary Creep Task Team.

I also attended the Reflection on SRC Objectives session.

Academic Planning Committee

This committee is a standing committee of Senate that reports to the Executive Committee of Senate (EC(S)) chaired by Professor Deresh Ramjugernath. Its primary concern is recommending decisions around academic planning to the EC(S) and Senate. It primarily focuses on topics such as new research centres, programme changes, and so forth.

Date: **3 May 2023**

- (1) Guidelines for cross-faculty disciplinary offerings promoting interdisciplinary scholarship: Progress of Task Team
- (2) Rounding off of marks: Progress
- (3) Review of the CIS guidelines: Progress
- (4) Definition of postgraduate in relation to the NQF level 8 category of funding: Progress

- (5) Language Implementation Reports – Recommendation by Prof G Quinot for a dynamic ongoing system to be developed where a report could be drawn automatically at any given point based on data that were submitted on a transactional level: Progress
- (6) Draft of a policy for all non-credit bearing academic offerings and discussion on how the inventory can be compiled and action the compilation: Progress
- (7) Reports:
 - a. Programme Advisory Committee
 - b. Committee for Bursaries and Loans
- (8) Changes to the name and constitution of the Laser Research Institute
- (9) New title page design and prescribed font types for theses and dissertations
- (10) Definition of postgraduate relating to four-year degree programmes and its implications for funding
- (11) Cooperation Agreement between SU, UCT and UP for collaborative offering of postgraduate modules in respect of existing accredited programmes at each partner institution
- (12) Recommendations of task team re:
 - a. A policy for all non-credit bearing academic offerings
 - b. An inventory of all non-credit bearing academic offering
- (13) APC proposal for rounding of Final Marks (FMs) in SUNStudent
- (14) Proposed outline of the SU Almanac for 2024
- (15) FMHS Structural Changes

Committee of Learning and Teaching

The Committee for Learning and Teaching (CLT) is chaired by Professor Deresh Ramjugernath and forms an integral part of the Learning and Teaching responsibility centre. It comprises all the vice-deans: learning and teaching, of each faculty.

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Date: **13 April 2023**

- (1) Review of SU Student Feedback Practice, including Cell phone accessibility
- (2) Review of the Regulation for internal and external moderation and the Processing of results
- (3) Revision of Teaching and Learning Policy (2018)
- (4) Task Team for the Promotion and Recognition of Teaching
- (5) Strategy for Teaching and Learning 2017 – 2021 (Graduate Attributes)
- (6) Student Success Rates
- (7) Longitudinal Access to SUNLearn
- (8) Revision of the Regulation for the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT) (2017)
- (9) Regulation for the Committee for Learning and Teaching
- (10) SUNStudent Project
- (11) MCQ Scanner
- (12) Recording of Lectures
- (13) Use of terminology in the SU Calendar (Part 1) and Implementation of Assessment Policy Rules
- (14) Academic Renewal (Standing item)
- (15) Revision of Module Guidelines
- (16) Learning Materials Policy (rescind)
- (17) Transformation KPA's
 - o Assessment
 - o Hybrid Learning
 - o Student Success
 - o Programme Renewal

(18) Proposal for rounding off of FMs in SUNStudent

(19) Student Concessions (limited to concessions recommended by the Disability Unit)

Date: **1 June 2023**

- (1) Strategy for Teaching and Learning 2017 – 2021 (Graduate Attributes)
- (2) Student and Staff Success System
- (3) Revision of the Regulation for the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT) (2017)
- (4) SUNStudent Project
- (5) Recording of Lectures
- (6) Use of terminology in the SU Calendar (Part 1) and Implementation of Assessment Policy Rules
- (7) Academic Renewal (Standing item)
- (8) Proposal for rounding off of FMs in SUNStudent
- (9) Student Concessions (limited to concessions recommended by the Disability Unit)
- (10) Review of Disability Access Policy
- (11) Draft Guidelines for the use of AI

Welcoming Programme Committee

This committee is chaired by Mr. Pieter Kloppers and meets to unpack the Welcoming Template and the logistics thereof, as well as any reflection post de facto.

This committee did not meet during Term 2.

Vice-Deans Forum

The Vice-Deans Forum is chaired by Professor Deresh Ramjugernath and forms an integral part of the Learning and Teaching responsibility centre. It comprises all the vice-deans: learning and teaching, of each faculty.

Date: **13 April 2023**

- (1) Transformation KPAs for academic renewal as game changer
- (2) Anonymity of question papers

Date: **1 June 2023**

- (1) Current state/position is of the concessions discussions with the DU. Where are we with this? A documented clear way forward will assist all.
- (2) The programme advisory committee: Good practice and support that can be provided
- (3) Workstream on the compulsory core module embedded in processes of Academic Renewal as part of CIRCoRe
- (4) DRAFT SU guidelines on AI use and academic integrity
- (5) Feedback from vice-deans about previous leadership handovers
- (6) Electricity crisis

Quality Committee

The Quality Committee is responsible for reviewing and auditing every department within the institution towards a superlative degree of quality. Ultimately, the Quality Committee may recommend adjustments to each department, and request feedback on these adjustments by a prescribed date.

Date: **18 May 2023**

- (1) Peer review reports
 - a. Department of Ancient Cultures
 - b. Department of Music
 - c. Faculty of Law
 - d. Department of Physics
- (2) Self evaluation criteria
 - a. Division of Student Affairs

Co-Curricula Recognition

The Co-curriculum Recognition Committee (CRC) accredits co-curricular activities and programmes at the institution.

Date: **22 June 2023**

- (1) Juridical Society Student Representative Committee
- (2) SRC Executive Leadership Training
- (3) Tygerberg Postgraduate Student Leadership Initiative
- (4) Cluster Convenor Development Programme
- (5) Designing for Transformative Experiential Learning
- (6) Lead with Disability
- (7) Shared Humanity: Learning Coach Training
- (8) Shared Humanity: Lessons in Critical Thinking
- (9) SU Toastmasters Speech Art
- (10) Introduction to Student Journalism

DSAf Self-Evaluation and Reflection Committee

As per the Quality Committee, each division must go through a self-evaluation. The Division for Student Affairs is beginning theirs and this committee was established to aid in this process. Due to a shift in the self-evaluation timeline, this committee will resume meeting at a later stage.

Term 2 Overview

AAC Executive

Meetings

Dates: 11 April 2023
25 April 2023
2 May 2023
9 May 2023
16 May 2023

Finances

The AAC's expenditure rested largely on its' subsidy from the SRC, which was only transferred towards the end of Term 1 of 2023. Thus, the AAC's biggest expenditure for this term was the purchase of a blazer for the Vice-chairperson, which is yet to be received from the Maties Shop, despite the process being initiated in 2022, due to load-shedding delays communicated by the responsible staff member. Furthermore, the Executive also had a lunch treat as a team-building event.

Member of the term

This is an initiative I've been passionate about since I began my term of office as it is a way to recognise service. The chosen member will receive a certificate and is praised for their work. The second recipient from the executive was Miss Elzette van Schalwyk for her exemplar dedication and work ethic.

AAC

Meetings

Dates: 2 May 2023
16 May 2023

Members

As per section 7(1)-(2) of the Academic Affairs Council constitution, the AAC comprises of 25 members. These members are either Executive members and/or the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the relevant Faculty Student Committee or Tygerberg Academic Affairs Council, unless the structure in question provides otherwise.

The members are as follows:

1. Ila Alberts
2. Zöe-Grace Bennett
3. Celia Britz
4. Kyle Duvenhage
5. Siphe Giba
6. Chloë-Mae Laubscher
7. Tshogofatso Matlala
8. Ané Murrey
9. Asanda Mkhize
10. Humbulani Gilbert Ndou
11. Siviwe Ntshololo

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12. Ernst Pieterse
13. Libonge Potelwa
14. Risuna Risimati
15. Reece Roberts
16. Stefan Rossouw
17. Kayla Ruiters
18. Mikhail September
19. Rushay Shiba
20. Norshya Sonjani
21. Emma Bowers Swart
22. Matt Tate
23. Valeriia van der Westhuizen
24. Elzette van Schalkwyk
25. Kay Vanwollegghem

Task Teams

By definition, task teams are group of people joined to accomplish a task or to be engaged in collective action. Within the context of the AAC the task teams are created to unpack and address issues that our communities face, with the intent of finding a solution.

As per section 24 of the Academic Affairs Council constitution, the AAC has created the following 5 task teams to unpack issues within their specific scope on a continuous basis. These task teams are led by members of the Executive and are accountable to the AAC at large,

1. Branding led by Kyle Duvenhage
2. International and Post-Graduate Students by Ila Alberts

3. Academic Accessibility by Ernst Pieterse
4. HEMIS by Elzette van Schalkwyk
5. Safety by Ané Murray

The functionality of the aforementioned task teams has begun and reflection on progress will be unpacked during the second academic term of 2023.

Cluster guardians

The introduction of AAC Cluster Guardians came about in efforts to empower the Student Communities with awareness of the AAC's role and thus it is the vision to introduce AAC Cluster Guardians. The respective guardians will each be the go-to person should any community or person from the respective cluster need guidance on matters relating to the function of the AAC.

The appointment of these roles was based on a volunteer system from members of the AAC and are as follows:

1. AmaMaties - Asanda Mkhize
2. Victoria - Elzette van Schalkwyk
3. Wimbledon - Risuna Risimati
4. Validus - Emma Bowers Swart
5. Rubix - Zöe-Grace Bennett
6. Vicmeyer - Ila Alberts

It must be noted that SLS and TygerMaties will have an ad hoc guardian, based on SLS having representation within other clusters and TygerMaties having the TAAC respectively,

Member of the term

This is an initiative I've been passionate about since I began my term of office as it is a way to recognise service. The chosen member will receive a certificate and is praised for their work. The first recipients from the general AAC were Mr. Stefan Rossouw, for his great dedication, and Mr Matt Tate for his service.

HEMIS awareness social media campaign

The media manager compiled informative documents which were shared with campus broadly in the form of digital and physical posters to raise awareness regarding HEMIS and the method of calculation associated with HEMIS for academics and residences.

AAC Training

Co-curricula

The AAC's co-curricula recognition allowed for AAC members to receive transcript recognition for their leadership term, on the basis that their learning is set into curricula and is substantive. This year the AAC has received tailored training from the FVZSI, namely the AAC Leadership Development Programme.

This took place both through online activities and 3 in-person sessions throughout the first semester of 2023. The dates are 20 January 2023; 25 February 2023 and 25 March 2023

Overview:

The Academic Affairs Council (AAC)'s Leadership Development Programme, developed by the Frederik van Zyl Slabbert Institute for Student Leadership Development (FVZSI), within the Centre for Student Leadership, Experiential Education and Citizenship at Stellenbosch University, in partnership with the Stellenbosch University Academic Affairs Council (AAC). The AAC Leadership Development Programme is developed specifically to create a platform for all members of the AAC Executive to develop a contextual understanding and framework for sustainable leadership, and to identify and unpack the contribution of each member of the AAC in developing and growing the work and objectives of the AAC, for the benefit of all students.

The objectives and outcomes of the AAC Leadership Development Programme are as follows:

Objectives:

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- To identify and unpack the various elements that contribute to the identity of an individual (and within a team), and how those elements contribute to the way individuals perceive the world,
- To discuss the meaning and understanding of sustainable leadership within a South African context, as well as within the Academic Affairs Council, and the various principles that form its foundation; o identify and analyse the challenges related to sustainable leadership within various contexts (focus on the AAC), and to create a platform for students to brainstorm various solutions that can be implemented.

Outcomes:

- Upon the completion of the *AAC Leadership Development Programme*, participants will:
- Have an in-depth understanding of their strengths and shortcomings in relation to leadership development as individuals and within a team, so that they can align the needs identified with their individual and collective strengths;
- Have a common understanding of the meaning of sustainable leadership within the AAC and within South Africa, so that they can identify the challenges and opportunities related to the development of future-focused leaders;
- Develop and create possible solutions to fast-track the progress and growth of the challenges pertaining to challenges in leadership that have been identified within a local (AAC) and South African context.

Furthermore, the Vice-Chairperson, Miss Ila Alberts has managed the co-curricula recognition for all AAC members so that transcript recognition is possible.

Constitutions

Each FSC has undergone a process of reviewing and amending their constitutions, by way of establishing Constitutional Review Committees. We aim for these to be ratified in August of 2023.

Plans for Next Term

As we begin to wrap our term of office, we aim to facilitate a smooth handover to newly elected FSCs.

We also aim to ensure semester two class representatives are elected and functional early in the semester.

Constitutional reviews will continue to be undertaken for the majority of Faculty Student Committees' constitutions, as well as the Tygerberg Academic Affairs Council. This process is largely overseen by Miss Ila Alberts.

Further, we continue to unpack and investigate what the institution's efforts are regarding the impact load shedding has as the student body gears up for an examination term.