



Stellenbosch

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SRC

Students' Representative Council
Ibhunga elimele abafundi
Studenteraad



SRC TERM 3 REPORT

SRC STUDENT WELLNESS AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



Students' Representative Council

Third Floor, Neelsie Student Centre

Private Bag XI, Matieland, 7602

Tel: +27 21 808 2757 | Email: sr@sun.ac.za



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Foreword

Molweni Bafundi!

I would firstly like to thank everyone that partictapated in the SRC Elections.The third term has been a challenging term far worse from previous terms, that includes the concequences by NSFAS cap, food insecurity and new crisis of unriliable allowance cards. It is that period of where we all should stand tall together as the community and mobilise ourselves to fight for access to eductaion for all.

The mandate will never get to be disrupted.

Constitutional Responsibilities

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

The core functions of the Students' Representative Council include – (1) To act in the best interest of students and to actively promote students' rights under CHAPTER 2. (2) To represent students at – (a) The University Council. (b) The Senate. (c) The Institutional Forum. (d) Other committees, structures, and functionaries of the University. (e) National and international student structures. (3) To evaluate the University policy and give input in the formulation thereof. (4) To formulate and maintain a policy to ensure that the SRC performs its functions and duties effectively. (5) To facilitate projects and initiatives to the benefit of students. (6) To inform students continuously, and obtain feedback, about its activities.

The portfolio has gone through many evolutions over the past few years, the most notable occurring in the 2018/19 term when a committee was created to draft the Mental Health Policy. The policy draft was both influenced by and influenced discussions around mental health at Stellenbosch University (SU). The 2018/19 term was unfortunately heavily impacted by the global coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. It is however evident through her plans, and her speeches during the caucuses, that she had a great motivation to broaden and destigmatize the conversation around mental health. – Chloe Krieger (Student wellness 2019/20).

I am of the strong opinion that there are many factors that affect one's mental wellness, besides obvious mental illness, and it is for this reason that the 2020/21 plan for this portfolio is to spend at least a month specifically focusing on the different aspects of the Wellness Wheel in an effort to improve overall well-being-(Makabongwe Chido Kasek)20/2.

In 2022 I am happy to announce that the mental health plan was finally approved. In my term I want to build on what Makabongwe had started and that is why I am continuing with the wellness wheel. I also want to be more visible on campus to make it easier for students to reach out to me. I have realised that we cannot fight the mental health problem alone and that is why collaboration between me and CSCD is going to be the core of my term- (Chris Briel) 2021/22

An alternate viewpoint on mental health awareness is being introduced in the current year (2023), allowing for more psychological activities, initiatives, and programs with the support of all pertinent stakeholders. Due to its nature, the portfolio has historically partnered primarily with the Centre for Student Counselling and Development (CSCD), which is a division of the Division of Student Affairs. Once more, the portfolio has restricted its ability to collaborate with social worker offices as it did before the COVID-19 outbreak. Fighting the real challenge of food security on campus is the mandate of this connection. The portfolio's affiliations go beyond campus-only relationships to welcome several national institutions, such as Higher Health to bright light, ease the stress and most importantly ensure student success through student servitude.

Portfolio Overview: Student Leadership Development

The role of the Leadership Development portfolio head is to facilitate non-SRC leadership development for positional and non-positional leaders. To liaise with Centre for Student Leadership, Experiential Education and Citizenship (CSLEEC) and Frederik van Zyl Slabbert Institute for Student Leadership Development (FVZS) regarding Masterclass, LSAL, LiC, and short course offering and to liaise with the Leadership development members of the faculty and community structures. Their role is to improve accessibility of leadership development and facilitate leadership collaboration on campus. In the current year the portfolio is constitutionally mandated to facilitate active intervention in different leadership structures on campus due to real student issues that seemed to be left behind closed doors of the SRC. Critical issues one being the accommodation crisis. This will be facilitated through engagement. Shortly the portfolio is ready to hold student leaders accountable according to different positions in occupation. Amandla!!

Committees/Task Teams

I serve on the following Committees and or Task Teams:

- *Student Achievement Committee*
The committee participates in the procedure for presenting students the Rectors Awards for Excellence.
- *Student Affairs Selection Committee*
The committee is mandated to preside over developments, reviews, and recommends policy for student activities and services such as housing, health, food, athletics, financial aid, campus events, and student behaviour.
- *Gender based Violence Monitoring Group*
The group is mandated to overlook, to take and tracking down progress pertaining GBV on campus.

Student Achievement Committee has meet in preparation for Rectors Awards. Other committees have and other committees have not yet meet!

Task Teams

The registration Champions

- The mandate of the task team was assisted students with registration process as well other concerns that resonates with the registration. This group was split into two group other SRC members like me were stationed in the office while the rest of SRC members and volunteers from SASCO and EFFSC stationed in outside Admin A.
- From the 30 January until 13 Feb I was assigned to Emergency accommodation placement, (backpackers).

Term 3 Overview: Student Wellness

The third term in the office has been a bit better in the first few weeks but later new challenges came to pass, a new storm being the predicament of food insecurity due to NSFAS. I had a few meetings with Dr. Janse Van Vuren in regards to creating more spaces to enhance wellness, health, and student lifestyle, one of the ideas and emphasis is on creating more physical activities as written in a paragraph under constitution duties. On the basis of the previous report, we were unable to complete some of the activities due also to a policy that binds the student structures to perform any means of the event two weeks before ongoing exams. The holidays have given us enough time to plan all activities and programs we need to complete as a commitment to the student body. Conversely, we encourage the student to make use of available services in the fight of overcoming food insecurity on our campus, as well as the Centre for Student Counselling and Development for counseling purposes. Those are need of food assistance can always reach out to the social worker's offices in number 49 Victoria Street or make use of the following email; supportus@sun.ac.za.

Term 3 Overview: Student Leadership Development

For student Leadership development all that was planned for the term, I'm excited to announce that we had our best event of the time as given in the previous term report. We the team of student leadership in collaboration with the transformation officer team launched the social evening with the support of other student structures. The event was a success and reached its aim of bringing student leaders into the same house to mitigate issues that our students are facing and to answer a way forward. This event happened at SU Museum Hall on the 12th of May. In overall noting the importance of the portfolio we encourage more participation, collaboration, and solidarity to all issues within the diaspora of students. We also have been active to SU recruitment process where we visited few schools in Khayelitsha, encouraging students to apply and further their studies in our student community, which all these proceedings went well.

Plans for Next Term: Student Wellness

We plan to continue to assist students will all the power we hold, to keep the student community active and alive. We assure this by wrapping up all left-over programs and initiatives, one being Wellness Friday.

Plans for Next Term: Student Leadership Development

As we are on Women's month, this term we are bringing all women in power together to share their experiences and what does it means to be a woman leadership in this space and time to our community. This specific explanation of event will take place from the last week of August. The aim is to show gratitude, encourage and respect to those who have included themselves in our daily struggles. This is set to be a safe space to any gender identification attendees may associate themselves with. Amandla!!

