



Stellenbosch

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SRC

Students' Representative Council
Ibhunga elimele abafundi
Studenteraad



SRC TERM 3 REPORT

SRC Women and Queer Empowerment Manager



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Foreword

Hello!

We are finally at the end of our 2022/23 Leadership term! And what a fruitful one it has been.

It has been a pleasure serving each and every one of you. I hope that as my term comes to an end that there are a handful of lives I have touched and student who have felt helped.

To my successor, best of luck. This is a major, yet rewarding job to take on.

Constitutional Responsibilities

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

- 1) The portfolio has a responsibility to students who fall within the women and queer communities to create a safe environment in which they can express themselves.
- 2) The portfolio has the responsibility to liaise with the university to ensure that their protocols and structures comply with the expectations and needs of the WAQE communities.
- 3) WAQE has a responsibility to hold the university and its underlying departments and structures to represent and advocate for the safety and inclusion of the WAQE communities.
- 4) Attend regular SRC meetings.
- 5) Attend office duty as requested by the SRC Vice-Chairperson.
- 6) Fulfil the mandate promised by the mission statement.

Portfolio Overview

1. The WAQE portfolio essentially encompasses two separate portfolios: Women Empowerment and Queer Empowerment. The decision to create this portfolio stemmed from the following reasons:
 - It is common knowledge that members of the Stellenbosch Queer community feel as though they have a lack of representation on campus in terms of events and institutional decisions made by the university.
 - Societies and spaces that did represent Queer bodies on campus expressed that they felt burdened by critical change and transformation expectations without any institutional backing, WAQE stands to bridge that gap.
2. These examples show the overview and reasoning for the Queer empowerment portfolio, but it is important to note that women and queer bodies experience different trials and setbacks.
 - Women on campus have experienced GBV and toxic masculinity at the hands of Stellenbosch culture for many years now. The WAQE portfolio stands to create events to raise awareness on this toxic culture and develop critical engagements to combat its existence.
 - Specifically, we look at men's residences and the culture that they breed within their walls. We would like to address the way male residences perpetuate an unsafe environment for all femme bodies on campus.

3) WAQE therefore also consists of sub-committee of non-SRC members, known as co-ordinators and general members who ensure that all these portfolio visions are overseen.

4) This year the theme for WAQE will be “Breaking the Binary” . Which will mean many of our events will be aimed at breaking down binary structures and policies within the university. Specifically, residences being unable to cater for non-binary students or PSO activities being based off of gender.

Committees/Task Teams

I serve on the following Committees and or Task Teams:

1) At the moment I sit on the WAQE sub-committee as the WAQE Manager.

- This committee is aimed at organizing the events of the WAQE portfolio such as our opening events, Pride month and Women's month events.
- Sourcing quotes from vendors for equipment and catering
- Social media and marketing
- Event set-up
- Creating a contact list for our WAQE community
- We also have individual responsibilities for some members.
 - The social media co-ordinator:
 - Co-hosts the WAQE podcast with me.
 - The critical engagement co-ordinator:
 - Plans and writes up our engagements with various student communities.

2) I have also been invited to the anti-GBV monitoring committee with the equality unit. This committee had its first sitting on April 21st.

- The committee had been established to encapsulate a more broadened scope than its predecessor, the Rape Culture Monitoring Committee (RCMC), as a commitment to address

Term 3 Overview

1. Our podcast episodes have continued running, with a break starting in June, due to the engagement of myself and the co-host with academics and exams.
2. We were unfortunately not able to host our panel discussion featuring Prof D Francis, as they were unavailable to accommodate us. This is something we were deeply disappointed with but will suggest it to the incoming WAQE manager.
3. We held an event in April in partnership with SafePad. The event was initially meant to centre only on how to sustainably have your period, using the SafePad reusable pads. However what we found was that there was another avenue we could explore with the use of SafePad. The event

then grew to discuss the impact menstruation has on Trans individuals and how a product like SafePad could assist with their gender dysphoria.

4. The sexual health event that was meant to occur in collaboration with female residences was unfortunately cancelled, however we were able to attend more engagements held by some of these residences such as Irene, keeping to our commitment to have good collaboration between the SRC and other student leaders.
5. Pride month occurred this month, while we were not meant to have the number of events we had initially planned due to exam season we did host and partake in the following events:
 - a. We hosted a podcast episode specifically on the importance of Pride which aired on the first day of International Pride.
 - b. We hosted a Pride Movie night at the Neelsie Cinema, which saw almost a full cinema. We watched a film on the evolution of Trans lives in film and television.
 - c. We partnered with SunMedia and attended Stellenbosch University's first official Pride Walk, as well as pledged to be a partner in following years.
6. We became aware of the fact that many residences and PSO's needed newer pride flags, we therefore moved around our budget to accommodate for this. This does mean that we will have to cut back on events for the final term.

Term 4 Plans

As this is the final term of the year in office, WAQE does not have much planned for this term.

1. Our first event of the term is our participation in the Leadership Summit for Aspiring Leaders where WAQE will be participating in a panel discussion on the university's institutional culture and how leaders are meant to use their voice within this culture.
2. We will also be looking for ways in which we can celebrate Women's Month, which we will be doing in collaboration with FVZS.

