



Stellenbosch

UNIVERSITY
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SRC

Students' Representative Council
Ibhunga elimele abafundi
Studenteraad



SRC TERM I REPORT

SRC Social Impact and Sustainability



Students' Representative Council

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Foreword

Greetings Maties,

I would firstly like to thank everyone that played a role, participated and actively engaged in the SRC Elections. As the representative of the Social impact and Sustainability portfolios, I am thrilled and honoured to be able to use this incredible opportunity and platform to contribute impactful initiatives both on campus and within the greater community of the Western Cape. I look forward to engaging with all the potential collaborators and the student body as a whole during my term.

I am quite eager to introduce these projects that I have ideated, collaborated with and will be executing on campus and externally. I hope you will take the initiative of getting involved, educating each other on various crucial conversations based on these portfolios but most importantly, engaging in the various activities and events-old and new, that we will be reviving, delivering and availing to you on campus!

I intend on doing justice to both of these portfolios as they are essential to not only reviving and developing our humanity, as portrayed by the Social Impact portfolio, but also actively contributing and playing our role towards preserving the planet and securing our and the future generation's only natural source of life.

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Constitutional Responsibilities

The Sustainability portfolio aims to push for institutional changes that ensure environmental sustainability on our campus. The role of the portfolio head is to liaise with facilities management and with the student structure focusing on sustainability initiatives.

The Student Constitution continues to highlight that as the representative of the Sustainability portfolio, I am required to:

- a) to fulfil my duties of submitting a complete report of my responsibilities and other activities to the Secretary after every academic term.
- b) Facilitate projects and initiatives to the benefit of students.
- c) Represent students at the university council, the senate, the institutional forum and other communities, structures and functionaries of the University.

Portfolio Overview

Although there is no set description or overview of this portfolio other than the constitutional responsibilities, one would interpret the portfolio overview as follows:

The Sustainability portfolio sets out to bring about transformative sustainable impact within the student community. This would be achieved through the delivering of informative and essential information that would aid the student body with the knowledge and skills of how they can contribute to preserving the environment and living more sustainably, but also through the improvement of facilities on campus.

This portfolio seeks to keep students engaged, involved and educated on how they can make a difference, become actively engaged citizens in crucial initiatives and conversations and play a role in the movement of preserving not only the environment but the planet as a whole.

Committees/Task Teams

I serve on the following Committees and/or Task Teams:

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Social Impact Committee:

The Division for Social Impact (DSI) serves as SU's first point of reference for staff, students and partners wanting to engage in Social Impact. The DSI does not run initiatives but instead, it provides advice, guidance, support and facilitates engagement. This committee is chaired by Nico Koopman and I serve this committee as the SRC's Social Impact representative.

During our scheduled meetings, we'd discuss proposals, updates, presentations, the promotion and recognition of social impact in the university faculties and communities in and around Stellenbosch, including student engagements within social impact initiatives.

SU Co-curricular support fund:

Stellenbosch University's Co-Curricular Support Fund (SUCSF/USKOF) is administered by the Division Student Affairs and is a student bursary fund for national, international, and online co-curricular events and courses.

During this first term, I have not attended any USKOF meeting as they will only begin from next month.

Term I Overview

During my first term in office, I engaged in various one-on-one meetings with Mrs Christine Groenewald, Facilities Management's Environmental Sustainability Coordinator. During these meetings, we would discuss the missing gaps on campus with regards to initiatives we believe would be resourceful to students to engage in and would create an overall impact on our campus as we know it. I gathered all the important aspects as discussed, formulated my year plan for this portfolio based on these factors along with my own original ideations and a few initiatives that were executed in previous years which proved to be a success, was informative and effective.

I continued to join and engage in meetings she would facilitate with other student residences and PSO leaders that represented the Sustainability portfolio in their respective campus communities. During these meetings we would engage in prompts and activities in which were sustainability based where we would learn from each other's views of the idea of a sustainably transformative campus but also express our projections and/or visions for what sort of sustainable space we intend on delivering in our student communities and on campus.

Finally, I initiated conversations with potential collaborators and engaged in meetings with student organisation and society leaders in which were thrilled with the idea of liaising with this portfolio and merging events. Furthermore, I reached out to external bodies in which I believe would bring about effective transformative change on campus along the lines of environmental education, aiding students with vital skills of how they can play a role in preserving the environment and influencing other individuals to join the movement. Currently, I am still reaching out to more of these bodies but have also been able to have discussions with the chairperson of Ecomaties and Head of Legal Research of Fossil Free Stellenbosch, Anaïs Breytenbach and other representatives such as the Tygerberg Student Council Sustainability Representative, Mosibudi Matlatse, where we've been arranging such collaborations.

Plans for Next Term

I plan on initiating the following:

Project: Make the Planet Green Again

This is the umbrella body projection intended for the following term in which we will be engaging in various initiatives on campus in order to push the agenda of our overall of ***“Join(ing) the Green side”*** mission.

1. ***“Feeding the future”***: student-led initiative for planting and harvesting produce and donating it to various communities

2. **"Get into the Green Scene"**: A sustainable green market on campus where we will be liaising with various student entrepreneurs and external sustainable businesses to promote green living.
3. **"There is no Planet B"**: Earth week initiatives with various student societies and structures on campus.