



# SRC 2020/2021 Term 2 Report

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## Constitutional Responsibilities

My responsibilities according to the Student Constitution 77(1/2) is to represent the students who form part of the 11 PSO's of the University of Stellenbosch (SU) and my Vice-Chairperson, Joshua Eva, represents the students who form part of the residences. Both myself and the PC Vice-Chairperson take equal responsibility for our respective constituencies as well as the Prim Committee as a whole.

I am mandated to actively promote the rights of students according to the Student Constitution, and specifically the right, under section 8(1), to do my part in enabling a campus environment in which student success and academic excellence are encouraged and pursued.

Furthermore, according to the Prim Committee's own constitution, my responsibilities include:

- Holding the highest authority in the Prim Committee.
- Planning and chairing biweekly Prim Committee meetings.
- Planning and chairing weekly/biweekly (depending on the need) PC Executive meetings.
- Representing the PC on various bodies as determined at Prim Committee meetings and as determined by other relevant SU bodies.
- Representing all houses in spaces in the absence of the Vice Chairperson and vice versa.

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- Regular meetings with the CSC director
- Offering support at biweekly Prim Development Programme (PDP) sessions,
- Participation in various committees including the MAK, SHC, Welcoming Program Committee, and SRC,
- To provide guidance and assistance where the Houses need.

As the primary caretaker of the PSO's, a mandatory goal is to ensure the personal and leadership development of PSO Primarii, which will in turn benefit the overall community-building within our private student structures. This is achieved via the informal relationships that I establish with the PSO leaders, as well as at structured spaces, such as the developmental Strategic Conferences (StratCons) which offer a platform for PSO Primarii and Vice Primarii to engage collaboratively with community-specific and campus-related issues in order to develop leadership abilities and promote the PSO space and what it has to offer. The PSO Caretaker works alongside the PSO Office at the Centre of Student Communities (CSC), to develop and orchestrate three annual StratCons, each tailored appropriately to the needs of the communities and the climate on campus.

The key responsibilities of the PSO Caretaker include the following:

- Weekly meetings with the PSO Office,
- Orchestration of three Strategic Conferences,
- Planning of various developmental opportunities for Primarii.
- Administering the PSO Pre-welcoming initiative
- Facilitating leadership trainings for the House Committees
- Attending Annual Discussions

The role of an ex-officio SRC member in this context is fulfilled through active participation in the body and accurate representation of the PSO constituency. A trusted and reliable link of information and representation between the PSO structures and the SRC are formed through my role's position on the SRC.

## Portfolio Overview

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## Committees / Task Teams

**Student Housing Committee (SHC)** – Chiefly oversees physical developmental affairs of student housing on campus. It is chaired by the Vice-Rector of Teaching and Learning and is further comprised of the PC Chair and Vice-Chair, the Directors of Project Management, CSC, *Toelating en Koshuisplasing*, as well as the Senior Directors of SU International, SunCom, Student Affairs and Student Access.

**The Senate** – The Senate is accountable for the academic and research functions of the University. The Senate may also be delegated or assigned other functions by the Council.

**Monitors Advies Komitee (MAK)** – Receives and acts upon information provided by the monitors program during the welcoming period in order to compile an annual Monitor's Report to report on and align communities' welcoming practices. The committee is comprised of the PC Chair, Pieter Kloppers (Director of CSC), Monica du Toit (Res-ed Coordinator: Victoria Cluster), JC Rademeyer, and a few other relevant stakeholders.

**Welcoming Program Committee** – Amalgamates the annual Welcoming Program's stakeholders across the University's structures, such as faculties, Student Governance, CSC and many others.

**The Senate Library Committee** – The Library Committee is a branch from within the Senate, which is responsible for ensuring efficient management of the Stellenbosch University libraries as well as the logistics surrounding the research materials, developing sections and so forth.

**The SRC Constitutional Review Committee** – The Committee has been mandated by the SRC's Policy Officer to review and amend the Student Constitution.

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**The Prim Committee Constitution Review Task Team** – The Task Team has been mandated to review and amend the Prim Committee Constitution, by the Prim Committee Executive. This committee is focused on restructuring and reviewing the Prim Committee Constitution as well as what other supporting structures it requires to ensure optimal performance.

**The PC Policy Forum** – The Policy Forum is a platform that was created with the intention of assisting the Houses with the relevant tools, documents and expertise that may be needed as they seek to create and/or amend their internal House Policies.

**PC Executive** – Oversees the strategic planning of the Prim Committee and is comprised of the PC Chair and Vice-Chair, the PC's treasurer, the PC's secretary, the external Cluster Convenor Executive member, and the Tygerberg PC Chair.

**Alcohol Policy Task Team** – Consists of the PC Chair, Vice Chair, Lisinda de Jager And Pieter Kloppers, and it is a team that is responsible for drawing up the newly formulated residence rule regarding alcohol consumption in SU residence spaces.

**The SRC Honoraria Task Team** – This task team was mandated to review the student leader payment structure and is comprised by various representatives in different spheres, such as the PC, AAC, Societies Council and so forth, to ensure accurate representation for all student leaders on campus.

**Leadership Summit for Aspiring Leaders 2021 Task Team-** This task team focuses on the coordination of the leadership summit, by evaluating relevant data as well as numerous student consultation. The team aims to host a summit which will enable positional and non-positional leaders to become active citizens.

**Connect Election Panel** – This panel was comprised by the PC Chair, JC Rademeyer and Naweed Mullajie and was tasked with electing the Connect Committee of 2021

**Rubix.Net Task Team** – This task team was created to pioneer the Senior PSO concept and was comprised by various seniors, leadership and otherwise, alongside Jethro Georgiades, Lisinda de Jager and Minette Sieberhagen.

**Cluster Proposal Team** – This team was created as part of my initiative to develop and improve the relationship with Cluster and its function. It focused on constitutional changes and adaptations which are required to strengthen the relation between the Prim Committee and Cluster as well as to improve the overall efficacy.

**DSAF Campus Review Task Teams** – They are all aimed at analysing different aspects of University spaces, to report on the culture on campus, as commissioned by Dr. Choice. I sit on the following:

**Campus Election Review-** This task team focuses on how elections on campus are conducted, with an in depth look at how elections were conducted during the pandemic last year, in different divisions, and how the legislation in constitutions will need adapting to ensure that online elections are constitutional.

**Commuter Students-** This task team focuses on how to identify the pressing issues that commuter students are struggling with and how the CSC and PSO office, alongside the division of student affairs can improve their campus experience, issues pertaining to their daily functioning, such as parking, hubs and access to campus spaces are most pressing.

**LGBTQ-** This task team is focused on addressing the campus culture surrounding LGBTQIA+ awareness and how to ensure a more welcoming and inclusive experience on campus.

**Res Head Appointment and Training-** This task team focuses on how Res Heads are appointed, what criteria is applied and how the appointment panels are conducted, as it is mainly an internal CSC procedure, it also reviews the necessary trainings that Res Heads have to undergo and whether or not it is sufficient to equip them for the job.

## Term Overview

As per my constitutional mandate in the Student Constitution, I have fulfilled my attendance requirements of both SRC and Student Parliament meetings, and sittings, and have actively engaged and interacted with the agendas in order to fully serve my constituency.

The second term was largely focussed on the planning for a successful welcoming week, which required numerous meetings with various stakeholders, including the Prim Committee, Welcoming Program Committee as well as interactions with the monitors and Connect Committee. I also initiated a pre welcoming template which many of the communities used to interact with their newcomers before their official arrival on campus. This went extremely well, as the engagement received from the communities was substantial.

Successful events include the 2021 photo, Dream Walk and Virtual Vensters. During welcoming, I had meetings with the MAC Committee every second day, as they reported on the problems that arose in the communities as welcoming proceeded. These issues were addressed within 24hrs of their logging and I was asked to report back to the committee in every meeting. I was also asked to attend Dagbreek events by their Prim, to ensure their behaviour was above board. The MAC

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Committee has since then, approved the monitor report and will be distributing it by the end of June.

The PSO office also hosted a second welcoming, for the students with late acceptance, this required all the PSO's to submit a welcoming program for the day, to showcase campus and their community to the students. This was very successful, as there were over a 100 attendees.

We have also continued working on our constitution and other policies to ensure that the constitution speaks to that which is required of the Prim Committee as well as how to hold us accountable. This also required me to get involved in other policy reform task teams, such as the SRC Constitutional Review, as it would directly influence our own structure, as a serving ex-officio structure.

We have hosted several events as the Prim Committee, such as the virtual run, which was a very successful initiative, and it received a significant amount of traction. The other initiative that was very successful, was the communities' donation drive which was aimed at the UCT fire, we organised transport for the donations and our help was greatly appreciated by the firefighters as well as the UCT students.

As the PSO caretaker, I hosted a successful StratCon at Spier with the help of the PSO team, aimed at equipping the prims with the tools to see their term and goals through successfully, as well as to focus on their personal development and upcoming elections, the conference was attended by Prof. Deresh and Dr. Choice. We also shared the PSO strategic plans for the next 5 years with the prims and CSC. This engagement also helped realign the goals that still need to be achieved by the end of this year by the PSO office, as we aim to launch the .net communities in all the clusters and start a new PSO.

I have also helped in the restructuring of the PSO office, as we have come to realise that the current structure will soon start stagnating and thus we aim to recruit a new permanent staff member, as there are approximately 11 000 PSO students and only two coordinators. The restructuring has been submitted to Prof. Deresh for approval.

During my term I have offered my support during the Prim Development Program (PDP) sessions where necessary. The PDP is a biweekly program that focusses on the development of the Primas as leaders, which will eventually evaluate whether or not the Primas will be accredited for their leadership at the end of their terms. Through communicating with the Coordinator on the current struggles that the Primas are experiencing, we have been able to mould the program to truly suit and address the current needs of the Primas, be it COVID related struggles, Res Head issues or House Committee trainings.

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We hosted a successful Prim Dinner at the Grappa Shed to celebrate the half term mark and a successful welcoming week. The event was well attended and served as an effective morale boost, to ensure that the primers can relax as well.

## Plans for next term

The constitution needs to be voted in, alongside other policies. We are also focussed on sorting out the election process for our successors as well as to aid the communities with their election processes where necessary.

We also aim at releasing a video to promote the communities that form part of the university, as there was a clear need for promotion of our communities as Open Day did not showcase the communities sufficiently, if at all. The video aims to be finished by the end of June.

We will also be hosted by different stakeholders for our meetings, such as the Municipality and Alumni office. We will be planning more events alongside them, to try and encourage active citizenship and an alumni base. The Alumni event will also entail a venture that is specific to the Prim Committee, which we hope will become an annual occurrence, whereby the student leaders receive support from the alumni base.

We also aim at hosting a donor awareness campaign campus wide, alongside the Virtual Run and I will also be helping Action For Inclusion through planning a hike hosted by Prof. Thuli Madonsela.

## Recommendations to improve portfolio

N/A, my recommendations are documented in my first report.

## Important Contacts

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Grant Williams: [grantw@sun.ac.za](mailto:grantw@sun.ac.za)

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