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| **Name and Surname:** | Shilela Bopape |
| **Portfolio:** | Sustainability and Innovation Manager |
| **Subject:** | Final Term Report |
| **Email:** | 19212453@sun.ac.za |



Contents

[Constitutional Responsibilities 3](#_Toc51160362)

[Portfolio Overview 3](#_Toc51160363)

[Committees / Task Teams 5](#_Toc51160364)

[Budget Overview 5](#_Toc51160365)

[Term Overview 5](#_Toc51160366)

[Recommendations for Portfolio Improvement 7](#_Toc51160367)

[Important Contacts 9](#_Toc51160368)

# Constitutional Responsibilities

The Sustainability & Innovation Portfolio thus far has no constitutionally prescribed responsibilities however, this portfolio is of great importance for the student body in order for the University to be able to cultivate a culture where students engage with issues of sustainability and which areas the Stellenbosch University has made progress in its effort to create a more sustainable institution.

As managers are constitutionally required to attend one meeting per term, I have attended a minimum of one SRC meeting per term.

# Portfolio Overview

The role and function of the Sustainability and Innovation portfolio is to broaden student engagement and knowledge on issues pertaining to sustainability.

**Portfolio Description**

For the year 2020, this portfolio is responsible for creating a socio-ecologically aware student body, especially regarding the sustainability principles and initiatives already undertaken by SU.

Furthermore, it is responsible for the encouragement and facilitation of sustainable practice by the SRC, student body and University as a whole.

**Vision**

My vision for the portfolio is for it to serve as a vehicle for increased student awareness and engagement of issues pertaining to sustainability, both in their university context and beyond.

In addition, the Sustainability portfolio should foster a process whereby the University maximises on its efforts to be environmentally conscious and eco-friendly. In this case, my ultimate goal is moving towards a system of digitising submissions of student assignments as the University currently contributes to the unsustainable use of paper at a mass scale. However, remote learning for the year of 2020 has meant that the process of digitisation has already taken place.

Also, exploring the scaling up of recycling initiatives by the University, and use of the recycled material, by encouraging more students to deposit their used notes is of concern. Due to COVID-19 and the fact that a majority of students have not been on campus this year, this initiative has not been possible.

Due to the wide-ranging hinderances of the novel corona virus, this portfolio had to adapt and therefore opted to increase the knowledge of students to issues of sustainability which affect them and how they can impart the lessons and tips in their own lives in feasible ways through two principle initiatives based on ways to make a students’ own life sustainable and how sustainability affects and involves them in important matters such as menstruation.

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# Committees / Task Teams

I solely served as Sustainability Manager for the Student Representative Council – after two recruitment attempts. In working with various constituents including DACES, Facilities Management and more recently with TSR, the portfolio has thus focussed on collaborative efforts with other groups which are concerned with Sustainability practices and awareness.

# Budget Overview

During the entire Term, no funds have been used. This is due to the fact that COVID-19 has made events on campus impossible. Furthermore, in keeping to sustainable usage of funds, the portfolio has opted to spend minimal funds except for an online event in August if need be. However, no funds were required for the Sustainable Menstruation online event.

The Total Budget Value of this portfolio is therefore still R11 000.

# Term Overview

I have undertaken the following activities/initiatives:

**Enhancing Student Access to Information:**

* This portfolio has compiled and issued a “Sustainable Living Off and On Campus Resource Pack” – in collaboration with DACES on Tygerberg and SU Facilities Management. The resource pack was disseminated amongst the student body and sought to offer them feasible ways in which they can make their own lives more sustainable; and present this information in a concise and easy to read and follow manner.
* The resource pack included:
* Sustainability Events and Petitions
* Food and Waste Management Tips
* Energy and Water-Saving Tips
* Sustainability games and media
* Miscellaneous resources and DIY projects
* This portfolio and the TSR on Tygerberg hosted a webinar on the 12th of August on sustainable menstruation and products. We had three different organizations who work in the sustainable menstrual products space. They included Komani (NPO), Dignity Dreams, Wast-ed and Rona Mirimi.
* To accompany that event, this portfolio specifically curated a Guide to Sustainable Menstruation Products which included:
* Scope of the problem and period
* Healthier alternatives to conventional menstruation products
* Disadvantages of conventional products
* Advantages of sustainable menstrual products
* Where to find these products
* Links to DIY sustainable menstrual products
* Both of the aforementioned initiatives’ Resource/Guide Packs were also offered to the Special Needs manager in Microsoft Word format for ease of access for students who are differently-abled.
* Please find attached the aforementioned Resource/Guide Packs on Microsoft Sharepoint on this link: <https://stellenbosch.sharepoint.com/sites/SRCSustainability2/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx>
* Gathered information on the Food Waste system of all university campuses and explore feasibility of integrating all campuses in the food waste management system. As currently, only the Stellenbosch, Tygerberg and Bellville campuses make use of the food waste management system. The result of this was that Facilities Management of Stellenbosch University is currently exploring this as part of its long-term (between 5 to 10 years) plan to broaden sustainable campus practice and overall functioning.

# Recommendations for Portfolio Improvement

This portfolio can be improved through the building of a network of contacts which will be able to assist with the various initiatives and projects which are being embarked upon. For an example, Facilities Management at SU has a wide range of contacts of people who are involved in sustainability on campus (please find the contact bellow).

I would recommend that the next SRC continues collaborative initiatives with DACES and TSR on Tygerberg Campus and the Sustainability Group within SU Facilities Management. These have proved to be really good groups and organizations to work with through this term and building on the work done during this year. Keeping up with the sustainability initiatives in Facilities Management which have been undertaken over a long period of time (including the integration of all campuses into the food waste system) but directly affect students by managing how sustainable the campus operates.

Furthermore, this portfolio should collaborate with the ecoMaties society as well as the LaunchLab; if they wish to increase Innovation amongst students. In addition, I advise that this portfolio begins working with the Sustainability Institute as they can offer important insights pertaining to sustainability for the SRC.

Importantly, the next SRC member can ensure that the University maintains the system of the digital submissions of assignments by students even after the pandemic so as to ensure that the use and waste of paper remains minimal. This can be done through consulting SU Facilities Management, general management and the IT Hub to ensure continuity of the eco-friendly system.

With regards to a subcommittee, I recommend that the next SRC member recruits an actual team as opposed to working individually on this respective portfolio so as to make workload more distributed and manageable; and to be able to have a team to generate various ideas for initiatives.

# Important Contacts

Christine Groenewald (SU Facilities Management) [clgroenewald@sun.ac.za](mailto:clgroenewald@sun.ac.za) / +27 21 808 2452

Sibongumenzi Mtshali (DACES Tygerberg) [20122586@sun.ac.za](mailto:20122586@sun.ac.za)

Dharshana Moodliar (TSR): 20741456@sun.ac.za

Sandra (Sustainability Week – Belgium): [sandra@sustainability-week.org](mailto:sandra@sustainability-week.org)

Sustainability Institute: 021 881 3500 / [info@sustainabilityinstitute.net](mailto:info@sustainabilityinstitute.net)