



**Stellenbosch**

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**SRC**

Students' Representative Council  
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Studenteraad



## SRC 2024 TERM 3 REPORT

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## Foreword

Hello fellow Maties,

I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable holiday break, filled with moments of relaxation, joy, and perhaps a bit of creative inspiration. As we step into a new semester, I want to extend my warmest wishes for your success, growth, and fulfillment in the months ahead.

This term marks my final stretch as your Arts and Culture Manager, and I am thrilled to embark on this journey with all of you. It has been an incredible privilege to serve in this role, witnessing our community come alive through various artistic and cultural initiatives.

As we look forward to this new semester, I encourage everyone to embrace the opportunities that lie ahead and remember that your involvement and enthusiasm are what make our community so special.

As we embark on this final term together, I am filled with a mix of nostalgia and excitement. Reflecting on the past semester, I am proud of what we have achieved and grateful for the memories we have created. At the same time, I am eager to make the most of this last term, pushing boundaries and exploring new horizons.

To all the students, whether you're a seasoned participant in our arts and culture events or someone looking to get involved for the first time, I invite you to dive in and make the most of what we have to offer. This is your chance to express yourself, connect with others, and contribute to our thriving community.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication. Together, let's make this semester a memorable and enriching experience for everyone. Best of luck to all, and let's make the most of this final stretch!

Warm Regards, mJelena Jerling

*saam vorentoe · masiye phambili · forward together*

## Constitutional Responsibilities

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

KuKo (Arts and Culture) is a compulsory portfolio as set out in the Student Constitution under s28(5)(c), however, no further responsibilities or detail is provided within the Constitution to the specific portfolio. As a SRC manager my duties and responsibilities are provided in s36 which require me to run the KuKo Portfolio which include the organisation and administration function of the portfolio. s36(8) requires a manager to attend at minimum, one SRC Meeting per academic term. In such a meeting, I am required to report all of my activities within the said meeting.

## Portfolio Overview

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KuKo is required to organise at least the following events:

- Molasseser
- Palesa Festival
- SU Acapella

Furthermore, the portfolio should facilitate intentional transformation in their events.

Keeping this in mind, KuKo is not just an events planning committee. KuKo is in charge of promoting and facilitating arts and cultural projects that not only improve a student's well being but also celebrate their identities, cultures and stories of their journey at Stellenbosch University. As one of the only arts and cultural student body, KuKo has the duty to provide events and projects that follow the SRC mandate of holistic wellness, education and accessibility. KuKo also has to make sure that their events are inclusive and reflect the culture of students of Stellenbosch University. Therefore, KuKo has to ensure that there are opportunities for students to express themselves through various forms of cultural arts such as music, dramatic arts, dance, literature and many other forms.

Let it be known that KuKo aims not to limit themselves solely to the above events but is encouraged to work on projects with other communities on campus as well as promote and design new projects that can help to promote the arts and culture around campus.

## Committees/Task Teams

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I serve on the following Committees and or Task Teams:

KuKo Committee

Student Achievement Committee

## Term 3 Overview

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Our main event this term was the Palesa Theatre Festival, a vibrant celebration of student creativity and theatrical talent. Held at the historic Drostfy Theatre, this festival saw various residences perform short plays, each bringing unique stories and perspectives to the stage. The level of dedication and artistic expression from all participants was truly inspiring. After a series of outstanding performances, Simonsberg emerged as the overall winner, captivating the audience with their exceptional play.

Reflecting on the success of this event, I recommend that future KUKO portfolios consider hosting the festival on campus at the Adam Small Theatre. This venue offers excellent facilities and a convenient location, making it more accessible for students and fostering a stronger sense of community. Moving the event to campus could also enhance student engagement and participation, further solidifying the Palesa Theatre Festival as a cornerstone of our cultural calendar.

This term, we also had the pleasure of assisting QueerUs with a cultural evening in town. The event was a beautiful celebration of diversity and inclusion, featuring live music and performances from talented students. It was heartening to see our community come together to support and enjoy the vibrant expressions of queer culture. The collaboration with QueerUs not only provided a platform for students to showcase their talents but also reinforced our commitment to fostering an inclusive and supportive environment on campus.

One of the challenges we faced this term was securing sponsorships for our events. Unfortunately, a potential sponsor backed out at the last minute, leaving us without external funding. Despite this setback, we managed to host our events successfully through the dedication and resourcefulness of our team. Looking ahead, we are in discussions with several hopeful sponsors for the next term, and we remain optimistic about securing the necessary support to enhance our cultural initiatives.

The Acapella scene has seen significant developments this term. There was a notable request from some of the female residences to change the prescribed song due to concerns about the lyrics. After extensive internal discussions, including input from the Acapella Coaches and Culture HC, we decided to retain the current song. We believe that it embodies a strong theme of women's empowerment, and we are committed to ensuring that our cultural expressions reflect values of inclusivity and strength.

*saam vorentoe · masiye phambili · forward together*

Additionally, Acapella Nationals have changed their format. Unlike previous years, KUKO will no longer send the winning group directly to nationals. Instead, Acapella groups can now enter themselves for a chance to compete. This new format empowers the groups to take control of their competitive journey and provides a fairer and more inclusive opportunity for all.

In preparation for future Acapella events, I recommend that the outgoing committee book the Acapella venue a year in advance. The Endler Hall, our preferred venue, is often fully booked, making it challenging to secure ideal dates for our events. Early booking would ensure that the next committee has the necessary resources and time to organize a successful competition.

## Plans for Next Term

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Looking ahead, we have an exciting lineup for the next term. The Acapella competition will take place from August 10 to 28, featuring several key events:

- **Acascuseme:** An introductory event where the Acapella groups will be introduced.
- **Tygerpella:** A mini-performance event at the Tygerberg Campus, showcasing the talent and creativity of all participating groups.

We are eager to see you all at these events, celebrating the rich tapestry of voices and performances that our Acapella community has to offer.