



# SRC 2021/22 TERMREPORT 2 VICE-CHAIRPERSON

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## PHILIP VISAGE – VICE-CHAIRPERSON – PVISAGE@SUN.AC.ZA

# Table of Contents

Constitutional Responsibilities	. 2
Portfolio Overview	. 3
Committees/Task Teams	. 4
Academic Affairs Council Constitutional Review Committee	. 4
Council	. 4
Council Language Committee	. 4
Institutional Forum	. 4
Student Achievement Committee	. 4
Student Parliament Rules Task Team	. 4
Term Overview	. 5
Plans for next term	. 6

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## **Constitutional Responsibilities**

As the SRC Vice-chairperson my constitutional responsibilities can be split between the duties imposed on me as an SRC member, a member of the SRC Executive Committee and my portfolio specific duties.

As an SRC Member, sections 27 and 32 impose the prevalent duties. Accordingly, I must always act in the best interest of students and to actively promote their constitutionally provided rights. Other specific duties include to represent students on institutional committees, to evaluate and give input on institutional policies, to facilitate projects to the benefit of students and finally to formulate policy in order for the SRC to perform their duties effectively. Section 32 further obligates me to submit a termly report of all my activities during the academic term to the Secretary. Finally, according to section 44 I have to attend an SRC meeting every two weeks during the academic term.

As an Executive Committee member, section 41 and 42 imposes additional obligations. This includes setting the agenda for SRC meetings, managing the day-to-day activities of the SRC, compiling the SRC budget and deciding on portfolio allocations. Finally, I am required to attend weekly meetings.

As the Vice-chairperson I am constitutionally mandated to perform certain internal and administrative duties. This includes evaluating and monitoring the team's performance, maintaining the internal discipline, appointing managers, and supporting the chairperson with administrative tasks.

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## Portfolio Overview

The Vice-chairperson shares the role of overseeing the SRC with the Chairperson. Key responsibilities of this portfolio include:

- Maintaining the internal relations in the team
- Overseeing and enforcing discipline in the team
- Coordinating the SRC's representation on institutional committees
- Ensuring there are teambuilding
- Promoting leadership development within the team
- Monitoring and evaluating the team's performance
- Appoint Managers

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#### **Committees/Task Teams**

Academic Affairs Council Constitutional Review Committee

Refer to Policy Officer term report 2

#### Council

Council is the highest governance structure of Stellenbosch University and is responsible for the oversight of academic and operational matters. Unique powers of Council include the ability to approve rules and policies, appoint staff, create committees, approve annual budget, determining student fees and establishing faculties.

There has been no Council meeting during term 2

#### Council Language Committee

The Language committee is a committee established by Council which has been delegated to the power of oversight and supervising of the Institution's language policy. It advises Council on language-related matters, advises Management on language implementation and sensitive/urgent/or contentious language matters, and inspects and reports on Senate's language reports.

There has been one meeting of this committee in the past term that took place the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2022. The meeting dealt with the usual faculty language implementation plans and other confidential matters.

#### Institutional Forum

The Institutional Forum acts as an advisory body to Council on matters relating to the statute, race/gender/equity policies, employing senior staff, creating the institutional culture in line wth the institution's values.

There has been 2 Special IF meetings in the past term. The first meeting took place on 9 March where the Institutional Audit was discussed as well as Branding matters. The second meeting took place on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March and was a meeting to discuss a senior appointment.

#### Student Achievement Committee

The Student Achievement Committee is convened by the Division of Student Affairs under the direction of the Vice-rector Learning & Teaching. The committee deliberates on and selects the students that are awarded the annual Rectors' Awards in the 6 categories available.

The committee will only be convened in July 2022

Student Parliament Rules Task Team Refer to Policy Officer term report 2

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### Term Overview

I started the term with organising engagements between the SRC and key-stakeholders in the institution to assist them in their responsibilities. This included meeting with the DVC for Learning and Teaching, the Office of Strategic Communication, and the Chancellor. The latter meeting will take place at the start of the next term.

I finalised the SRC's Code of Conduct and presented it to the SRC. It was ratified at the first SRC meeting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> academic term and is available on request.

My next project was the review and editing of term reports. The members' first term reports were reviewed, and improvements communicated to the members. These edits and comments will be monitored in future reports to ensure the SRC's reporting are at a high standard.

I then undertook a process of meeting one-on-one with each member to gauge their progress, wellness, recommendations, and critiques. This process resulted in amendments made to how the SRC operates and which improvements we will be making. This process concluded in a set of peer-reviews which further indicated the focus areas for trainings and workshops I host.

Finally, I conducted interviews and lead the appointment process for a new Communications Officer and Electoral Commissioner. Both will be finalised by the first week of next term.

General duties in the term included organising SRC and Executive Committee meetings throughout the term. This entailed booking venues and ensuring that we comply with the booking regulations imposed by Division Student Affairs for in-person meetings. It also entailed booking transport whenever the team needed to go to Tygerberg or when the Tygerberg members were driven into Stellenbosch.

Other duties throughout the term entailed maintaining the office supplies by ordering water and having coffee/tea/milk in the office.

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#### Plans for next term

Next term will be spent working on the following projects:

- 1. Updated Year plan and term report reviews and meetings with members to monitor achievement of goals therein
- 2. Monitoring compliance with Code of Conduct and ensuring steps are taken in that regard
- 3. Coordinating committee representation to ensure matters raised to the SRC are dealt with thoroughly at all relevant committees.
- 4. Review the SRC's Code of Conduct and improve its efficiency
- 5. Host a Midterm function for the team to reflect on the past two terms in office
- 6. Organise a teambuilder or morale booster for the team

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