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Students' Representative Council
Ibhunga elimele abaFundi
Studenteraad



SRC 2024 TERM 3 REPORT

SRC POLICY OFFICER

Students' Representative Council

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– SRC Policy Officer –
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Foreword

Hello Maties !

What a beautiful yet hot and vibrant start to the 2024 year. It is always the start of a leadership term that dictates how the year will progress and I truly believe that the passion that I have entered the term with with fuel my perserverance and give purpose to my role to help the greater Student Community.

Upon entering the role, my to-do list grew with big tasks that need to be fulfilled, namely the Student Constitution Review. This past term has truly shown me the analogy of sink or swim and the importance of being on top things; for failing to prepare means preparing to fail. Policies are the force for allowing change, inclusivity and transformation, however such milestones are not achieved overnight and are hindered by those who speak with little action to follow. Therefore, public participation is integral for a successful student democracy to protect our rights. This can be achieved through participation in SRC events and attending Student Parliament Meetings.

I cannot wait to take on this year with you and serve to the best of my abilities, I am to keep our student interest's and needs at the forefront of all conversations we enter into this year.

Constitutional Responsibilities

As the SRC Policy Officer my constitutional responsibilities can be split between the duties imposed on me as an SRC member 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 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 the Policy Officer I am constitutionally mandated to ensure SRC policies are formulated correctly and to assist other members in evaluating institutional policies. I am further required to assist the SRC with interpretations of the Student Constitution and other policies where it is requested. Finally I am mandated to safe-keep all student-related constitutions.

Portfolio Overview

The Policy Officer portfolio is responsible for ensuring the SRC deals with policies appropriately. This includes:

- 1) Ensuring SRC policies are formulated in terms of the Student Constitution
- 2) Assisting other members evaluating institutional policies
- 3) Developing new SRC policies where needed
- 4) Curating and supporting SRC policymaking
- 5) Reviewing institutional policies
- 6) Facilitating training on policymaking to members

Further duties of this portfolio revolve around the accessibility of existing policies. Exact duties include:

- 7) Developing accessible processes for students to find institutional and student policies
- 8) Safekeeping and creating a repository of all student-related constitutions

Committees/Task Teams

I serve on the Communications task team of the SRC. This task team consists of myself, Vice-Chair, Chair, Communications Officer, Visibility Manager and the Secretary-General. This committee serves to

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consolidate and discuss all information that needs to be communicated to all the relevant stakeholders of campus. This ensures that there is no miscommunication and reduces the possibility of information being misunderstood. This past term nothing was of vital importance to communicate so the committee was in limbo.

Additionally, I have created a sub-committee for the Student Constitution Review that consists of Risuna Risimati (AAC chairperson, second-year law student), Panashe Mayena (Senior Living Spaces Cluster Convenor), James Caldwell (BAccLLB student) and Ila Alberts (Student Imbizo Convenor, third-year law student) who helped with the drafting and ratification process of the new Student Constitution. The committee met on the throughout the term to discuss changes and share thoughts.

Term 3 Overview

The third term of 2024 proved once again to be chaotically productive term. Most of this term, in my capacity as Policy Officer, was spent having multiple meetings with members of DSAF finalising the proposed amendments of the Student Constitution. Multiple meetings were held with Pieter Kloppers, Thulani Hlatswayo, Anele Mdepa, Dr Choice Makhetha, Lisinda De Jager and multiple student leaders in an attempt to understand the needs of students and how to incorporate it into the document. Drafting the Student Constitution has been no easy feat as the process has led me back to the drawing board on multiple occasions. I have also been forced to understand that compromise does not necessarily lead to everyone being happy and that change really is as good as a holiday. However, after much deliberation all that is left is to finalise the small changes followed by mass participation and approval at a Student Assembly meeting. Lastly, followed by ratification by SU Council. I am truly humbled by the process of proposing the amendments of the Student Constitution and can now safely say that I grasp the weight the document carries with it. It truly encompasses every aspect in a student's day-to-day life on campus.

Furthermore, I was tasked with drafting a Code of Ethics which would apply to all leaders on campus. This draft has been completed and reviewed by DSAF, followed by their approval. The following step to come is to include it as a Schedule in the Student Constitution. Which will also be ratified by SU Council. By including it in the Student Constitution it ensures that all students have access to this Code. This affords students another mechanism to hold student leaders accountable for their actions.

This term provided little opportunity to comment on other policies. However, Dr Celeste Nel did ask for recommendations on the management guidelines for the application of the policy for placement in student housing and allocation to commuter student communities. I further also had a consultation with the Electoral Commissioner as a FAQ session regarding the interpretation of the Student Constitution relating to their operation. Risuna and I as members of the Constitutional review Panel also made a visit to the Military Academy to ensure the cohesion of their Constitution with the Student Constitution and the proposed amendments. We also spent the weekend understanding the function of MASC and how they fulfil their duties. We were also joined by Sabelo Silangu, Tygerberg Policy Officer, to discuss their proposed amendments to the Tygerberg Student Constitution and ensuring it coincides with the proposed changes of the Student Constitution. The session was also used to understand how the TSC fits into the broader Stellenbosch Leadership structure. Constant communication is still held with Tygerberg campus to ensure cohesion and efficiency between the policies of the two structures.

Plans for next term

Next term will be spent working on the following projects:

1. Assisting Ex-officio structures with their Constitutional Reviews
2. Interpreting and formulating policy as the situation to do so arises.
3. Allow public commentary on the Student Constitution proposed amendments.
4. Ratify the Student Constitution.
5. Assist the Electoral Commission on their upcoming term.