



SRC 2020/2021 Term I 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.
- Regular meetings with the CSC directors
- 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

I. The SRC

The SRC is the highest structure of student representation in the University, thus it is comprised of members that represent the constituencies that are required for accurate representation in such a structure. With this comes the responsibility of true and accurate constituent representation, valuable thought leadership, and the ability to take initiative. As an ex officio member of the SRC with the portfolio of Prim Committee Chairperson, my role in the SRC is to facilitate collaboration and engagement between this leadership structure (SRC) and the Prims. Practically, I achieve this through sound communication and trust between my affiliates on the SRC and the PSO Primarii whom I represent on the body. Through ensuring that the necessary information flow takes place between SRC meetings and Prim Committee (PC) meetings, it allows for a clearer expression of student needs that can reach the agenda of the SRC, and a consequentially clearer response to the student body or, at the very least, the privately accommodated student body.

2. Stellenbosch University

As Prim Committee Chairperson within the Stellenbosch University context my portfolio entails the maintenance of the optimum functioning of the Prims and their tasks within student communities. My position affords me opportunity to represent my constituency on various management structures and committees, which is a crucial aspect of the position. I mostly function as a liaison between the Prims and the various university branches that they work with (Maties Shop, Maties Community Service, Alumni Office, Centre for Student Communities, facilities management etc.). In doing so, I ensure that the Prims can offer the necessary services to provide a thriving student environment within their various communities. Through representing the student voice for SU PSO's on various bodies I ensure that the various events and decisions that inform student culture at Stellenbosch is in line with students' best interests. This representation is quite noteworthy, as PSO's





represent roughly 75% of campus. To ensure success and growth within the PSO sphere is detrimental in supporting Stellenbosch University's vision in community building and a transformative student experience. Without thriving PSO communities, a large burden will fall solely on residences, residence placement, and Student Affairs at large. My role thus accepts responsibility to promote prosperous PSO community spaces and structures as far as I am capable.

3. South Africa

My role as the Prim Committee Chairperson allows me to facilitate discussion and cultivate a culture with the members of the Prim Committee where focus is placed on the role we play as active citizens in our society. The student leaders of today grow up to be the informed, responsible, and ethical leaders of our nation. It is therefore crucial that the SU student culture promotes active citizenship, where our leaders are prompted to think openly, be compassionate, gain the necessary multicultural exposure and through this learn the skills that will enable one to become a good South African citizen. The Prim Committee facilitates this by exposing the Prims to the diversity that is present within our institution, thus ensuring first-hand experience in assisting, working alongside and guiding students from various backgrounds and helping them achieve success.

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, SunKom, Student Affairs and Student Access.

The Senate – The Senate is accountable for the academic and research functions of the University, by the Council. 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 and Vice-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.

Other Committees / Task Teams

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

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.

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.

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

Senior PSO 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.

Term Overview

I. SRC

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

The first term with the Prim Committee, apart from meeting planning and interactions with the Executive Committee, required my attendance and contributions at the Annual Discussions of various communities including PSOs, residences and Clusters. These conversations allowed for a more coherent and in depth understanding of community leaders' visions and plans for their respective terms as well as for an opportunity ask questions and offer direction where necessary.

This term also necessitated the planning of the Prim Camp, alongside Pieter Kloppers – the camp facilitated training, brainstorming and networking opportunity for the Prims at the start of their terms. University staff and experienced student leaders were incorporated to facilitate the sessions. As the camp took place during a pandemic, we had to ensure safety protocols were in place for the camp to take place physically. It took place over the course of 2 days





and covered an array of topics, such as acceptance over what one cannot control, the SU structures and the rewriting of house traditions.

The PC Vice Chairperson and I also formed part of the team to elect the new House's Prim and Vice Prim, but the House was disbanded after the Rectorate came to an agreement with Huis Marais, where we then played a role and will continue to, in how Huis Marais will improve and abide by the agreement.

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 Prims as leaders, which will eventually evaluate whether or not the Prims will be accredited for their leadership at the end of their terms. Through communicating with the Coordinator on the current struggles that the Prims are experiencing, we have been able to mould the program to truly suit and address the current needs of the Prims, be it COVID related struggles, Res Head issues or House Committee trainings.

Working with the PSO Office at CSC has allowed for my input in a managerial capacity with the PSO's. My first responsibility was to help plan the PSO calendar, which would determine deadlines for elections, trainings and various other initiatives. I then had to help plan and facilitate leadership training for all the prospective PSO leaders, which took place virtually. This training session was largely focussed structural understanding of the student leadership body and all the different spheres of the University. I then had to plan and facilitate the first annual StratCon, which took place in person and had all the PSO prims in attendance, albeit 2 virtually. The training was structured to aid the Prims facilitating conversations based on socio-political issues such as #BlackLivesMatter and consisted of various sessions facilitated by myself and the PSO office, team building activities, lunch and a distress activity to end off the day. We also had a PSO office strategic planning, in which we determined the long-, medium- and long-term plan for the PSO structure, to ensure prosperity and growth. By doing this, we also worked with the PSO's to align our goals with the ones that was set out for them in the previous leadership term, which also initiated a process of reevaluating the goals set out in 2020, to see what needed adjustment, what goals have been achieved and how to build on these goals.





Furthermore, I have been required to commit extensively to ensure a successful welcoming period amidst a pandemic. I have had to attend various meetings to provide input and aid on how the Welcoming proceedings should take place. This has taken a lot of teamwork, alongside the Prims and members of CSC, to stabilize the communication channels and to keep the relevant stakeholders in the loop. The second term involved extensive commitment to the success of the welcoming period.

2. Committees and Task Teams

Student Housing Committee (SHK) – This committee has had two meetings thus far. Issues included the University's large financial loss due to COVID 19, residences returning to full capacity, the continuation of various projects, which were placed on hold due to COVID 19, such as the Huis Ten Bosch, as well as other budgetary matters and other planned upgrades.

Monitors Advies Komitee (MAK) – This committee has yet to have a meeting, but has been established.

The Senate – The Senate has had one meeting, where Vice Rector Skoonwinkel gave in his year report and bid his farewell. We also voted on various matters and discussed what the new academic year would look like.

Welcoming Program Committee – This committee has been having weekly meetings since December, to try and prepare as much as possible for the various COVID stages and how the faculties and Houses will host events.

PC Executive – We have had regular meetings discussing campus matters and PC agenda points, as well as the establishment of the Constitutional Review Task Team and Policy Forum.

The SRC Constitutional Review Committee – The Committee has been meeting weekly and aims to have the review completed in March.

The Prim Committee Constitution Review Task Team – The Task Team has been meeting weekly and has projected to finish the review in April.





The PC Policy Forum – The Forum has met once and has created a platform for houses to dissect and evaluate their internal policies.

Alcohol Policy Task Team – This Task Team has met twice and aims to have completed the policy at the end of February.

The SRC Honoraria Task Team – This Task Team has met 3 times and has yet to meet again in the new year.

Connect Election Panel – The panel has successfully appointed the Connect Committee and Vensters 2021's planning is well underway.

Senior PSO Task Team – This Task Team has met on numerous occasions and plans to pilot the concept in February.

3. Other

Additionally, I have aided in the setup of the onboarding program, which has been pioneered to help newcomers adapt to the university life before arriving on campus.

Plans for next term

A short Welcoming StratCon is currently being planned for the Prims and Welcoming leaders for all the PSO's and will be hosted before Welcoming officially starts, where the leaders will be able to ask questions, brainstorm and discuss their reservations and issues. A Prim and Vice Prim training session is also being planned for the entire Prim Committee, to re-establish the relationships which were built at the Prim camp and to establish relationships amongst the Vice Prims.

I will, throughout the Welcoming period, be availing myself to fully support any and all houses, but mainly focussing on the PSO's and the PSO office needs. We will also plan the second welcoming and other trainings for the house leaders.

I also aim to complete the goals set out in the various committees I form part of, such as the Constitutional Review committees, successfully.





Additionally, we will continue with our PC meetings and further along and all other projects we take on, such as the Alcohol Policy. We will also provide support and guidance where necessary.

Recommendations to improve portfolio

The SRC as a whole needs to have a better grasp of how ex officios structures function and how their portfolios slot into the larger picture.

Important Contacts

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