



# SRC 2020/2021 Term 2 Report

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## Constitutional Responsibilities

The Social Impact is a portfolio in the SRC which is responsible for redress and addressing the imbalances of the past in underprivileged communities. It is also subservient to the content and responsibilities of the SRC and the university's constitution.

## Portfolio Overview

The Social Impact portfolio recognizes the challenges in most communities in the Western Cape caused by the imbalances of the past. In order to move forward the Social Impact portfolio is committed in a reconciliatory approach where the sharing of ideas and opinions will be possible in order to try and address the injustices of the past in underprivileged communities.

Vision: Our vision is to accelerate the pace of development in underprivileged communities.

Mission: Strengthening Stellenbosch University's capacity to Social Impact.

## Committees / Task Teams

The Social Impact portfolio consists of a Social Impact Sub-Committee (SISC). The SISC consists of fourteen members, seven from Stellenbosch main campus and seven from Tygerberg campus. Each member went through a rigorous application process of about 21 applicants where eventually the 14 applicants were appointed.

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#### Additional Committees:

- Social Impact Committee
- MGD Board

## Term Overview

The Social Impact portfolio during the second term has officially launched its first project in collaboration with BASC. As you would remember how I stressed in my previous portfolio report that the first time was more of foundation building and image building. That stage has past now and the work has begun.

#### Book Drive Initiative:

The SRC Social Impact Sub-Committee SISC in collaboration with the BASC Social Impact hosted a book drive initiative. The book drive launched on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2021 up until the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2021. During this three week process students from various communities including residences, PSO and faculties were required to donate unused books such as novels, children's books, textbooks and study guides. These books would then be donated to a school in need. A total of 112 books were donated of which 103 books were documented and 9 books were undocumented. Of the 103 books which were documented 51 books will be donated to a high school in need, 34 books will go to a primary school in need and 18 books will be donated to a hospice in Stellenbosch. The donors included various student communities such as PSO, Residences and faculties. Our major donations came from the Engineering Student Committee ESC.

#### Challenges:

Although the Social Impact Book Drive was a success there were a few challenges we encountered. Firstly, the challenge was in getting the word out across various student communities this included residences, PSO's and faculties. This was a challenge as we had initially planned on issuing out a spreadsheet were at the end of the week each student community leader can record how many books their community donated. However, this was a hassle as the Prim Comm chair indicated that it would be too much admin for the prims which. Taking into consideration the fact that the university under lockdown has a strictly no visitor prohibition policy so this made it difficult for us to check on a weekly base the progress. However, that did not deter us as we kept on campaigning and pushing the word. The SRC Social Impact Sub-Committee met regularly every Friday for the duration of the three weeks to discuss the progress of the project. As the leader of the Social Impact Sub-Committee I had to keep on motivating everyone even when it was hard as we were on the dark in terms of whether students were donating or not. On the BASC side they had to issue coffee vouchers to students who donated and that encouraged some students to donate. Because no funds were budgeted for this project it made it difficult for us to have incentives on our side.

Eventually, the numbers started picking up gradually especially during the last week of the book drive was our peak times. Which is also a trend we have noticed that most students like to support initiatives or projects when it is near to the end or closing. Which is why proper campaigning from the get go is essential. Nonetheless, the Social Impact Book Drive was one of our most successful

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project and I hope that my successor will continue further with such an initiative and even expand it and include a stationary drive as well and also mobilise some members of the SRC to assist. After all Social Impact is a portfolio that works well when a lot of people work together and the SRC is a great platform where such synergy would occur.

## Budget

### Budget & Reasoning

The Book Drive initiative had not been part of the budgeted projects so no funds had been used for this project.

### Expenditure so far

None at this moment.

## Plans for next term

- Women's Appreciation Self Care packs
- School Shoes Initiative

## Recommendations to improve portfolio

As stated on the term overview that proper campaigning from the get go is essential when it comes to projects. It would also be advisable to request for extra funds for unexpected events as Social Impact is big portfolio and I unfortunately had to reject many projects which would have made a great impact due to the non-availability of funds and most of my unbudgeted projects were rejected.

## Important Contacts

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