



Student Parliament

Accountability, Transparency and Consultative Governance
UNIVERSITEIT IYUNIVESITHI STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

studpar@sun.ac.za

Speaker and Chairperson Term Report 1

Preamble

The Position of Speaker and Chairperson's term started on 1 November and was filled in late September. From then on, Student Parliament has grown to fill all the positions required by the Constitution.

As Speaker, I am responsible of the day-to-day running of parliament, as well as being member to all structures Constituted by its Constitution. I must attend SRC meetings, presiding over all Parliament meetings, hold good relations with the Tygerberg Student Parliament, be responsible for Parliament funds, and act as spokesperson of Parliament. This report will detail November to early April.

Activities

Opening Plenary Sitting

The first plenary Sitting was held in March and went smoothly. There were noticeably more attendees than in the last Sitting, which is the aim for the year: to increase the visibility and relevance of Student Parliament through direct campus engagement.

The Sitting was about an hour and a half long and only had one agenda point from the student population. The point in question was that of Maties Gym's move from Student Account to cash. The concern was on the exclusion of students who want to go to the gym, but it is not financially viable. There were comments around there being a contingency for the NSFAS students. The questions raised in the Sitting that could not be discussed, will be forwarded to the Maties Gym team and if the report is available, will be presented at the next Sitting in Term 2.

Our Guest Speaker for the Sitting was the Speaker of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament: Masizole Mngasela, who gave a speech on Leadership.

Monthly Meetings with Chairperson and Chief Justice

The Constitution prescribed that the Speaker meet with the SRC Chairperson and the Chief Justice. These meetings are platforms for the three structures to share any concerns and comments they might have and any recommendations for each other. These have started off well and I am looking forward for the meetings in the next term.

Societies' Fairs and Leadership Showcase

The Leadership and Development Showcase and Senior Societies' Fairs were held in early April and were a terrific way for Student Parliament to market itself and its functions. The Committee was out on the field, and I am appreciative of the collaborative effort put into ensuring the visibility of SP.

It was refreshing to see students engaging with Student Parliament and asking to be a part of it. The only way, outside of the Campus Engagement Task Team, for students to participate in the functions of Parliament is through attending Sittings and ensuring that they raise student issues that need to be discussed or resolved, and this is a major focus of the Committee.

Campus Engagement Task Team and Ex-Officio Additional Member

The Student Parliament Committee created the Campus Engagement Task Team in efforts to have a resolute team that will deal with increasing the visibility and relevance of Student Parliament among the student population. As the First Sitting showed, there was a lack of agenda points being sent by students and this needs to be corrected, and we found a Campus Engagement Task team to be a good start.

The Chair of the Campus Engagement Task Team was made an ex-officio member of the Student Parliament Committee, through Chapter 2 Section 9 of the Constitution. This will establish a greater relationship with a culture of campus engagement among the SPC.

Relationship with Tygerberg Student Parliament

The Speaker of Tygerberg and myself have been working very well together, and this is a relationship we hope will forger a greater Student Parliament holistically. The Tygerberg team has come to our first Sitting, and we attended theirs, and we plan to attend in each other's Sittings for the rest of the year.

In addition to the Tygerberg Speaker being part of the Stellenbosch Parliament, we have also added the Tygerberg Communications Officer as a member on the Campus Engagement Task Team, forging a greater collaborative relationship with each other, and learning from each other on what promotion strategies will reach more students.

The New Structuring of Student Parliament

With the new Student Constitution having come into effect, Student Parliament has the responsibility to ensure that it alters itself, its Constitution, and its policies to be in

line thereto. Student Parliament was given a deadline last year to draft the Rules for the bicameral Houses and this deadline was not met, and the ambit of drafting the Rules became that of the SRC Policy Officer.

The SRC Policy Offer set up a Task Team that included the Constitutional Review Task Team for 2021, the TSP, SP, SRC and the TSRC, each sending delegation to the Task Team. The team was further divided to two teams, one for each of the Rules, the leaders of which were Myself for the Student Imbizo Rules, and Keaton Harris for the Students' Assembly Rules. Philip Visage would be responsible for the drafting of the new Student Parliament Constitution, which will display the bare bone of the bicameral Parliament, and the Rules would act as the functional guideline of how to exercise the powers and mandates of the Constitution, being both the Student and Student Parliament Constitutions.

The Rules have been drafter quite slowly, and that is a combination of academic and other positional responsibilities that all of us have. The initial deadline was the end of the First Term, but this has not been reached and the more realistic goal is for the Rules to be ready by the end of the First Semester.

Remarks

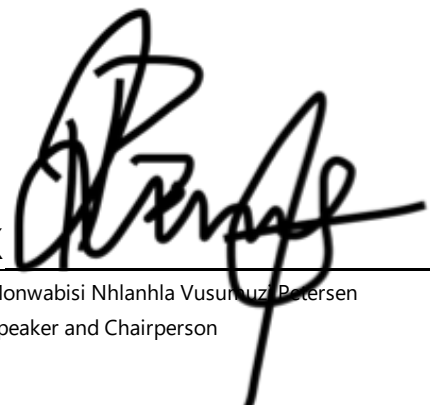
Overall, I am incredibly happy with the team that ahs been formed, and everyone seems competent and willing to do the job. I look forward to the rest of the year with them.

Recommendations

As much as Parliament is functioning, the team has only met once and with this virtual world we live in, it is important that interpersonal relationships be forged in the interest of the team. With this, we plan to have a day or so together, a team building, doing activities, and getting to know each other so our working relationship can improve as well.

The Accountability and Steering Committees, outside of the SP Executive and SP Committee, are the ones I have been most active on, and hope to be more active in the other forums and committees as well during the coming term.

X



Monwabisi Nhlanhla Vusumuzi Petersen
Speaker and Chairperson