



# SRC 2020/2021 Annual 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

- Social Impact Committee
- MGD Board

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## Year Overview

### Term 1

The Social Impact portfolio in the SRC at Stellenbosch University has been non-existent for two terms following its last term which was 2016/2017. Over the past few years the Social Impact portfolio in the SRC has not received that much of attention judging from the fact that there has been no designated portfolio for Social Impact in the SRC for two terms. Thus, the first term of my term in the SRC was for setting the foundation for the portfolio. This was so that students are aware of the portfolio and so that they can familiarise themselves with the portfolio. It also gave me a chance to form a relationship with other student leadership structure. This foundation will be very important especially for my successor as students are now aware of the portfolio.

### Term 2

Appointment of the Social Impact Sub-Committee

- On the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2021 till the 6<sup>th</sup> of April 2021 applications opened to the public for the Social Impact sub-committee.
- A total of 21 applications were received in which 14 were selected.
- From the 14 social impact leaders 7 came from Tygerberg campus and the other 7 from Stellenbosch campus.

### Term 3

During the third term of my term the Social Impact Sub-Committee SISC in collaboration with the BA Student Committee BASC Social Impact launched a project. As you would remember how I stressed in my previous portfolio report that the first term was more of foundation building and image building and also the setting up of the Social Impact Sub-Committee and also allow them to familiarise with the portfolio.

Book Drive Initiative:

The book drive initiative 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 where 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 primos 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

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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 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.

#### Term 4

Most of the projects which we had planned for the duration of our time had to be pulled back due to the ongoing threat of the pandemic.

Overview of projects which we had to pull back:

- Women's Appreciation Self-Care Pack

The initial plan for this project was to go to Philisa Abafazi Bethu centre which is an NPO in Cape Town which advocates for the rights of women who are victims of domestic violence and intimate partner violence. Most of these women feel a sense of loneliness and rejection due to the traumatic events they have experienced. Thus, this initiative was to show these women that they are appreciated and that they also matter in society. The plan is to spend approximately 3 hours with these women speaking with them and getting to know them.

- Sustainable Garden

Part of the Social Impact long-term projects was the sustainable garden in Khayamnandi. The Social Impact in Collaboration with the Engineering Student Committee ESC and the residence structures had a plan on collaborating on a sustainable garden in Khayamnandi with Kuyasa an organisation based in Khayamnnandi which would provide the land for the harvesting.

- Tutoring Programme

During our first meetings with the Social Impact Sub-Committee we decided to volunteer in a school in Khayamnandi and offer tutoring services to the matric students to assist them with the exams.

The Social Impact Sub-Committee reached a unanimous decision to suspend all our in-person interaction projects. The reasoning behind this decision was due to the spike in Covid-19 cases under the third wave. This was a difficult decision however, it was necessary in order to not put the lives of the Sub-Committee members and the people we would be interacting with at risk. Nonetheless, these projects would have had an everlasting impact to the communities and I would appreciate it if my

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successor would carry them over even if it is only one of the projects specifically the Sustainable Garden as I have spent a lot of time planning and building relationships for the project.

Overall my term in the SRC specifically under the portfolio of Social Impact has had its highs and lows. However, I have learned quite a lot of skills that I will be taking with me in the outside world. Although most of our projects had to be pulled back I believe that the Social Impact portfolio has done a great job in setting a foundation for my successor.

## Budget

### Budget & Reasoning

The initial budget for the Social Impact portfolio was R24 670. Of this amount R13 570 intended for the women's appreciation self-care pack. R10 000 was intended for a school shoes initiative and R1000 was reserved as discretionary fund to be used for any extra cost not included in the expenditure. However, due to the decision that we took during the second term to suspend all our in person projects due to the peak of the third wave this led us to not utilising our budget for our term.

## Recommendations to improve portfolio

- When budgeting for projects ensure that the service provider is on the university system

This became a challenge during the start of the year as most of the products we required or budgeted against were not on the university's system. I would advise that my successor ensures that all the listed products they will require is on the university's system.

- Always have a plan B

What my term has taught me is to always have a plan b. As much as the Social Impact portfolio had a lot of great initiatives or projects planned most of those projects could not be fulfilled due to circumstances beyond our control. Thus, it is important to always have a plan b as life has shown us how unpredictable it can be.

## Important Contacts

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