



STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL  
IBHUNGA ELIMELE ABAFUNDI  
STUDENTERAAD



UNIVERSITEIT  
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STELLENBOSCH  
UNIVERSITY

100  
1918 - 2018

# SRC 2021/22 TERMREPORT I INNOVATION

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Students' Representative Council  
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## PRECIOUS NHAMO – INNOVATION– PNHAMO@SUN.AC.ZA

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## Constitutional Responsibilities

The Innovation portfolio thus far has no constitutionally prescribed responsibilities. However, I am bound by duties allocated to me by the general SRC which are:

As the portfolio holder for Innovation:

- a) Supporting student entrepreneurship
- b) Facilitating innovation in SRC projects
- c) Liaising with SU LaunchLab/Innovus
- d) Providing student input to SU structures planning entrepreneurship projects

As a duly elected SRC member, my constitutional responsibilities can be split between the duties imposed on me as an SRC member, duties directly assigned to me by the Executive committee and my portfolio specific duties. This report will deal with all these capacities I served in. As an SRC Member, sections 27 and 32 impose the prevalent duties. Accordingly, I must always act in the best interest of students and actively promote their constitutionally provided rights. Other specific duties include to represent students on institutional committees, to evaluate and give input on institutional policies, to facilitate projects to the benefit of students. 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 must attend an SRC meeting every week during the academic term.

I have diligently fulfilled my role in such regards. As per my job requirements I have attended and completed all my weekly office duties. I have also attended all my meetings and trainings except the ones I had academic conflicting schedules. I have failed in submitting my report 36hours after it was due.



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## Portfolio Overview

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The Innovation portfolio of the SRC focusses on actively supporting student entrepreneurship on campus. The portfolio facilitates innovation in SRC projects. It also liaises with SU LaunchLab/Innovus. It also ensures that student input to SU structures planning entrepreneurship projects is heard.

For 2022 our mission is working towards achieving sustainable projects and helping students produce at their premium best.

In depth, the innovation portfolio broadens, promotes, and supports a culture of innovation & entrepreneurship as it drives creative thinking and advances efforts to extra economic and social value from knowledge. As a proponent for student innovation, it seeks to work with the Launch Lab to promote and facilitate entrepreneurial ideas from students which are aimed at socio-ecological challenges in their respective contexts

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## Committees/Task Teams

### Quality Committee (QC)

The QC was established in 1993 to ensure all departments in this institution are following the appropriate procedure for assessing the quality of their 'services.' This committee does not itself assess the quality but assists the departments to set their own criteria and reviews their internal procedures. The QC aims to assess all departments over a 5-year cycle. Departments include all faculties and administrative departments of the Institution. The QC is chaired by the Vice-rector Learning and Teaching and the secretary is the senior adviser of the Academic Planning and Quality Assurance division. The SRC holds 2 seats on this committee. During the QC meeting for the first term held on 22 November 2021 at 10:30 - 11:30 we welcomed new members and passed farewell to retiring members. The updated and approved mandate was availed to the committee – the following have since then been approved as the mandates of this committee:

- a) Makes recommendations to the Executive Committee of Senate for attention, discussion and or further action.
- b) Has the powers of disposal to accept and approve self-evaluation and peer review reports and accept or refer-back improvement plans and follow-up reports.
- c) Provides institutional guidance and advice on quality assurance matters by identifying and sharing examples of good practice.
- d) Monitors the implementation of the Policy for Quality Assurance and Enhancement

At this meeting, we didn't table any self-evaluation or peer review reports by departments or professional academic and administrative support service (PASS) environments, but rather focused our discussion on adapted themes and criteria for such evaluations, and the progress we are currently making with the institutional audit.

Officer Quality Assurance Contacts:

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### Stellenbosch University Co-Curricular Support Fund (SUCSF)/USKOF

USKOF was founded in 2011 after assessment were done and need was seen. Several departments and divisions within the university makes funds available to support co-curricular development of students and these funds are pooled and made available to the committee and utilized for the following reasons:

- a) Students' attendance of and participation in national and international conferences falling outside the formal academic offering.
- b) Support for student initiatives on campus additional to the day-to-day activities of student structures for which there are existing budgets; and

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- c) Support for Students' Representative Council's (SRC) initiatives linked to the above-mentioned, but also initiatives related to national and international co-curricular activities that are preferably not annual or repetitive events.

The application and utilisation of the funds by students are assessed by reporting and similar ways of feedback. The SRC has 2 seats on this committee and aid in decision make and final approval of applicants. SUCSF/USKOF is administered by the Division Student Affairs. Its operations are subject to institutional and covid regulations.

In our first meeting in January 2022 –

We discussed the risks associated with funding students that are not yet fully registered as they are technically not recognized as students yet. However, it was agreed that if a student hasn't or isn't graduating yet they can still be considered as we hope they will continue with their studies. We also deliberated on opening international travel opportunity on the condition that students take responsibility to fully equip themselves with any regulation changes e.g., covid 19, travel restrictions and insurance and costs of PCR tests and vaccination. SRC was mandated together with team members to promote conferences and events within Africa and online courses. We agreed on not preventing future funding if the student chooses to attend an online event now and in person later

Next meeting: 23 February 2022



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## Term Overview

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### Innovation Meetups

I have had meetings with Daniel Maloba to see how SU LaunchLab can work together in an affordable manner with the students. We deliberated each other on our plans for the year and reached conclusions on how best we would work together. I went on to book them a table at the societies' fair. I had a meeting with VR for Innovation to explore and exploit some of the possible avenues of funding student entrepreneurship initiatives. I also applied for partnership and funding with Sanlam & The Shoprite group of companies, and we are still awaiting approval.

Overall, I spent my first term trying to bring all relevant parties together for collective action.

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## Plans for next term

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1. 2 Weekly entrepreneurship roundtables
2. Innovation Seminar with VR
3. Improving the Idea Smash

After my meeting with Prof Eugene, we agreed to focus on the above mentioned 2 projects and rather start drafting a 2-5-year plan for this portfolio. Efforts are being made to have as many external and affordable partners as possible. We have been liaising with launch lab until a certain point, as long as some of their prices are as ridiculously high as I think student participation will remain compromised.