



STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL
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SRC 2021/22 TERMREPORT 2 TRANSFORMATION

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Constitutional Responsibilities

Transformation does not have specific constitutional responsibilities outside of those stated in the SU Student Constitution for the SRC in its entirety. Chapter 4 27(1) to act in the best interest of students and to actively promote students' rights under Chapter 2; (2) to represent students at – (a) the University Council; (b) the Senate; (c) the Institutional Forum; (d) other committees, bodies and functionaries of the University; and (e) national and international student bodies; (3) to evaluate the University policy and give input in the formulation thereof; (4) To formulate and maintain policy to ensure that the SRC performs its functions and duties effectively; (5) facilitate projects and initiatives to the benefit of students; (6) To inform students continuously, and obtain feedback, about its activities.. The Transformation Officer also acts as the owner of the Transformation Policy.



Portfolio Overview

The role of SRC Transformation is to work to further transformation that favours students both institutionally, as well as socially. This pursuit of transformation should be intersectional, and should account for the diverse students who make up the student body of Stellenbosch University. The pursuit of transformation should also be in furtherance of the mandates of the 2021/2022 SRC, and should aim to ensure an educational approach that works in pursuit of positive knowledge. It should be an accessible process that enables and encourages students to be the driving force of the transformative process. And the pursuit of transformation should take into account the holistic wellness of the individual and the community locally, nationally, and internationally.

The Transformation Officer has a responsibility to ensure that the gap that separates students is closed, in order to ensure that students can engage with each other on fair and equitable grounds. The Transformation Portfolio should in addition work towards transforming Stellenbosch University into a just, equitable, diverse, and inclusive institution.

Committees/Task Teams

- Transformation and Critical Engagement Forum – Head
- Student Institutional Transformation Committee – Chairperson
- Transportation Workstream – Chairperson
- Institutional Forum
- Transformation Office Monitoring and Evaluation Task Team
- Siyakhule Capacity Development Project – Project Coordinator
- Rector's Award Advisory Task Team

Term Overview

Rector's Award Task Team

The regulations governing Rector's Award for Excellence is undergoing a review process, and as Transformation Officer I served on the task team reviewing the regulations. We identified quite a few gaps in the regulation, and the proposed changes to the regulation will help to close those gaps as well as to clear any vagueness or uncertainty that students might be feeling towards the Rector's Awards. Students will be invited to comment on the proposed changes to the regulations during the second term.



Transportation Workstream – Chairperson

The Transportation Workstream ran a very successful operation during the registration period. The workstream received 544 unique requests for transport during the registration period, of which we were able to accommodate 177 students with transport.

Some advice for my successor, hire drivers from vehicle fleet, volunteers are too sporadic and unreliable, and having to manage them will take from you. Reach out to the Centre for Student Communities early in your term to liaise with them. They run a shuttle service for PSO students, and this caused quite some confusion. There may be merit in pooling resources with the CSCD to operate the shuttle service like an ad hoc bus service during registration.

Something else that stood out during the workstream was how many commuter students face extreme difficulty and challenges getting to and from campus every single day. This issue is something the transformation portfolio will follow up on with past student leaders who are still on campus that worked on the issues faced by commuter students. The goal would be to gauge what the outcome of past engagements were to determine where and if there is potential to try and find a more sustainable and long term solution to help ease some of the challenges faced by commuter students.

Student Institutional Transformation Committee – Chairperson

The Student Institutional Transformation Committee (SITC) was recently reconstituted as a new body with a different makeup of representatives from relevant student sectors. This new body will have its first meeting the first week of the second term, where a new executive will be elected to govern day to day operations when the SITC is not in sitting. This reconstituted format was discussed at the Transformation Indaba at the end of 2021, and will still serve primarily as an advisory body to the new Institutional Transformation Committee (ITC)

Transformation and Critical Engagement Forum – Head

The Transformation and Critical Engagement Forum had its first outing during term one. Members of the Forum visited the Slave Lodge in Cape Town. The visit helped to conscientise members of the Forum, and to give them the necessary background and guidance to foster positive critical engagements in their respective communities.

The Forum also had its first termly meeting where we engaged on some of the challenges experienced during the first term and the ways in which we can address them moving forward. The Forum is also moving strongly towards receiving co-curricular recognition with the introduction of reflective journals that Forum members will have to complete as they go on excursions through the year.

Institutional Forum

The Institutional Forum had a meeting on the 10th of March to discuss a proposed change to the current heraldic crest.



On the 18th of March the Institutional Forum held a joint meeting with Senate as part of the approval process for appointing a new DVC Research, Innovation, and Postgraduate Studies.

Budget Usage

The Transformation Portfolio did not spend any of its own budgeted reserves, but it did spend R36 000 as planned for, for the hiring of vehicles for the Transportation Workstream

<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount budgeted</u>	<u>Amount utilised</u>	<u>Amount available</u>
Transportation Workstream	R36 000	R36 000	R0



Plans for next term

Pride Week

Pride Week is collaboration between the Transformation Portfolio and the Women and Queer Empowerment Portfolio. The aim of Pride Week is to foster positive representation on campus for marginalized students. During Pride Week, the two portfolios have planned an array of activities and events aimed at celebrating queerness and making learning about queer issues accessible to all students. The Transformation Portfolio will plan two events, and a third one in collaboration with the Women and Queer Empowerment Portfolio.

Gender, Sex, and Sexuality Discussion

The Gender, Sex, and Sexuality discussion is the first event planned by the Transformation Portfolio. The purpose of the talk is to aid students in understanding the differences between gender, sex, and sexuality. The discussion is slated to take place during our Pride Week celebrations, which will be hosted during June.

STI Information Session

The STI information session is the second event for Pride Week planned by the Transformation Portfolio. The purpose of the session is to inform students about how they can stay safe while exploring sex and sexuality. The session follows from a campaign that the EqU is running, which also revolves around STI information sharing and awareness.

Pride Walk

The Pride Walk is the final event of Pride Week and is meant to be a celebration to cap off the week. For the Pride Walk, the Transformation and Women and Queer Empowerment Portfolios will collaborate closely together. During the walk, the two portfolios will be handing out cupcakes and T-shirts.

Student Parental Support Initiative

The Student Parental Support Initiative is aimed at providing support to students at Stellenbosch University who have children. The initiative is twofold in this regard.

The first part of the initiative is offering support services in the form of group discussion to student-parents formally once a term. This group will be led by a councilor from the CSCD and will aim to offer parents a platform where they can discuss challenges that they are facing with other students who understand their struggles.