



STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL
IBHUNGA ELIMELE ABAFUNDI
STUDENTERAAD



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SRC 2021/22 TERMREPORT 3 VICE-CHAIRPERSON

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Students' Representative Council
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PHILIP VISAGE – VICE-CHAIRPERSON – PVISAGE@SUN.AC.ZA

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Constitutional Responsibilities

As the SRC Vice-chairperson my constitutional responsibilities can be split between the duties imposed on me as an SRC member, a member of the SRC Executive Committee and my portfolio specific duties.

As an SRC Member, sections 27 and 32 impose the prevalent duties. Accordingly, I must always act in the best interest of students and to 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 and finally to formulate policy in order for the SRC to perform their duties effectively. 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 have to attend an SRC meeting every two weeks during the academic term.

As an Executive Committee member, section 41 and 42 imposes additional obligations. This includes setting the agenda for SRC meetings, managing the day-to-day activities of the SRC, compiling the SRC budget and deciding on portfolio allocations. Finally, I am required to attend weekly meetings.

As the Vice-chairperson I am constitutionally mandated to perform certain internal and administrative duties. This includes evaluating and monitoring the team's performance, maintaining the internal discipline, appointing managers, and supporting the chairperson with administrative tasks.



Portfolio Overview

The Vice-chairperson shares the role of overseeing the SRC with the Chairperson. Key responsibilities of this portfolio include:

- Maintaining the internal relations in the team
- Overseeing and enforcing discipline in the team
- Coordinating the SRC's representation on institutional committees
- Ensuring there are teambuilding
- Promoting leadership development within the team
- Monitoring and evaluating the team's performance
- Appoint Managers



Committees/Task Teams

Academic Affairs Council Constitutional Review Committee

Refer to Policy Officer term report 3

Council

Council is the highest governance structure of Stellenbosch University and is responsible for the oversight of academic and operational matters. Unique powers of Council include the ability to approve rules and policies, appoint staff, create committees, approve annual budget, determining student fees and establishing faculties.

There has been one Council meeting held on 20 June during this term. Content of the meeting is confidential however the public communique can be found here: <http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=9279>. In preparation for this meeting, the Chair and I had a preparatory meeting to go through the document bundle and prepare our stance on various issues that was to be discussed.

Council Language Committee

The Language committee is a committee established by Council which has been delegated to the power of oversight and supervising of the Institution's language policy. It advises Council on language-related matters, advises Management on language implementation and sensitive/urgent/or contentious language matters, and inspects and reports on Senate's language reports.

There has been one meeting of this committee in the past term that took place the 16th of May 2022. The meeting dealt with the language implementation questionnaire as distributed to students, an update on the translation of policies, as well as the isiXhosa workshop. I provided recommendations on improving the response rate for students on the questionnaire.

Institutional Forum

The Institutional Forum acts as an advisory body to Council on matters relating to the statute, race/gender/equity policies, employing senior staff, creating the institutional culture in line with the institution's values.

There has been 1 IF meeting this term on the 10th of May. The only points of note was recommendations made on the acceptance of the communications policy and intellectual property policy of SU.

Student Achievement Committee

The Student Achievement Committee is convened by the Division of Student Affairs under the direction of the Vice-rector Learning & Teaching. The committee deliberates on and selects the students that are awarded the annual Rectors' Awards in the 6 categories available.

The committee will only be convened in July 2022

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[Student Achievement Selection Committee](#)

The Student Achievement Selection Committee deliberates and recommends candidates to the Student Achievement Committee for the categories of Leadership, Service Provision, and Culture. New regulations have been created for this committee and it will now consist of interviews and more deliberate discussions before recommending candidates to the Student Achievement Committee.

The committee will only be convened in July 2022

[Student Fees Committee](#)

I took over this committee seat after the resignation of our Treasurer-General. The committee serves as an advisory committee to the Finance Committee and recommends changes to student fees and levies.

The next meeting will be in July 2022

[Student Parliament Rules Task Team](#)

Refer to Policy Officer term report 3

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Term Overview

My first duty entailed appointing a new Communications Officer and Institutional Project Liaison. This process was completed in the first week of the term when the Executive Committee appointed the recommended candidate. A brief induction was held to ensure the member could adequately take up the new role.

As Vice-chair, I am also the experiential educator for the SRC's co-curricular program. In this regard, I attended my first training session on how to manage and use a SunLearn page. During the next term, I will finalise our page so that the requisite activities may be completed thereon for transcript recognition.

I worked on keeping team morale high during the term via various projects. First, I throughout the year gave gifts at meetings for members who had birthdays in the week. I then hosted 3 debrief sessions where the SRC was able to discuss problems we are facing internally as well as to provide a safe platform to discuss institutional issues. Finally, I organised a midterm function where we as a team could celebrate our halfway mark as well as reflect on the term we had thus far.

I further created mechanisms of ensuring communication runs smoothly within the SRC. This entailed firstly setting up an SRC Calendar on our internal Teams site. I then uploaded various documents that the SRC need in their daily operations to the teams site including our policies and forms. Finally, I kept the team updated with ongoing institutional and SRC updates/news via bi-weekly digest emails.

On request of the Senior Prim Committee, I hosted a training session on handovers and report writing. This entailed presenting various templates and explaining the need, purpose, and process of writing these documents. This took place as part of the Senior Prim Committee leadership training session organised by the Chair of the SPC.

On the 12th of May, I was invited with some of my colleagues to a visit with the iSRC of NWU. They were in SU busy benchmarking our Student Parliament and we attended the closing function and engaged with them on various differences between our structures. Valuable insight was ascertained that helped shape our own benchmarking project later in this term.

During the term we started planning a benchmarking project. This would entail visiting 5 other institutions and comparing various aspects of the SRC's functioning so as to improve our own SRC. I drafted the Terms of Reference that was approved by the SRC and created the programme for the visits. During the recess we undertook this project and started drafting the report. The report will be presented to the SRC and various other stakeholders upon completion thereof.

At the end of the term, we hosted a meeting of all community and faculty student leaders to discuss the social injustices that occurred on our campus. The outcome was a joint mass protest on campus and a collaboration to provide a singular memorandum of demands to the Rectorate. This document is still being finalised and will be presented to Rectorate within the next term. As a result of the gross human rights violations, certain other changes occurred which included the SRC lobbying the institution to move exams forward with one week.



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I also attended and actively participated in the relevant meetings that the Executive Committee is involved in. This included monthly meetings with the Rectorate and Division Student Affairs. Finally I assisted the Chair in general matters of advice and assistance where needed.

General duties in the term included organising SRC and Executive Committee meetings throughout the term. This entailed booking venues and ensuring that we comply with the booking regulations imposed by Division Student Affairs for in-person meetings. It also entailed booking transport whenever the team needed to go to Tygerberg or when the Tygerberg members were driven into Stellenbosch.

Other duties throughout the term entailed maintaining the office supplies by ordering water and having coffee/tea/milk in the office as well as maintaining discipline via the Code of Conduct. I further ensured that SRC members attend to their committee obligations and report back to the SRC thereon.

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Plans for next term

Next term will be spent working on the following projects:

1. Monitoring compliance with Code of Conduct and ensuring steps are taken in that regard
2. Coordinating committee representation to ensure matters raised to the SRC are dealt with thoroughly at all relevant committees.
3. Host a Closing function for the team
4. Organise a teambuilder or morale booster for the team