



SRC 2020/2021 Term 2 Report

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Constitutional Responsibilities

The Societies' council consists of all registered and recognised student societies and an additional representative appointed by the society chairperson. This body is the highest decision-making body on all matters that relate to the governance of societies. The Executive Committee of the Societies Council is constitutionally mandated to ensure that the Societies Council is effective and functional. As well as ensuring that all the needs of societies are provided for, it further has the duty to provide regular updates and reports on the activities of the Council.

Committees / Task Teams

Societies Council Acting Chairperson

Term Overview

Leadership Development

As per s14(1)(8), the Executive Committee is mandated by the constitution to ensure that there is sufficient leadership development for Council members. With this mandate in mind, the Executive Committee created a leadership workshop to equip newly elected leaders with the tools necessary for how to function optimally as a society.

Leadership Development training

The Societies Council commenced its term with a leadership development training that took place on the 27th of February 2021 via Microsoft teams.

The aim of the training was to inform societies about the ecosystem of support in the Division of Student Affairs (DSAF) at Stellenbosch University in particular with the Student Governance Environment. The training further aimed at nurturing team work in efforts to create a conducive working environment through the system of co-operative governance. Lastly, the training aimed to align the administration, projects, and tasks of the Societies Council for the term with the set vision of the Societies Council and the institution.

Based on the above learning outcomes, the council had multiple presenters to achieve the competency skills domains of civic literacy, project management, resource stewardship and social intelligence.

Navigating University Structures Training

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The second workshop that was dedicated to leadership development is the Navigating University structures training. The training took place on the 17th of April 2021 via Microsoft teams.

The training had the following learning outcomes:

1. To learn about the ecosystem of support in the Division of Student Affairs (DSAF) at Stellenbosch University with the university management structure.
2. To be able to navigate Stellenbosch University management structure to achieve all society objectives.
3. To align the administration, projects, and tasks of the societies Council for the term with set vision of the Societies Council and the university.

Further, the training aimed at achieved the following competency skills domains:

1. The applied knowledge of navigating university structures & Reading Comprehension
2. The worked based skills of project management, resource stewardship.
3. The people-based skills of conflict resolution & Emotional Intelligence.

The training achieved all of its objectives except for the reading comprehension as we struggled to get a presenter for the competency skills domain.

Welcoming Walk-Through

The Societies Council and Maties Sport annually hosts the Welcoming Fair for newcomers during the Welcoming period, the event forms part of the official SU Welcoming programme. Under the new normal and with

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considerations of the Adjusted Risk Alert Level 3 regulations the organizing committee devised a plan to offer a memorable experience for our newcomers. The event has switched from being a Welcoming Fair as it warrants a gathering to a **Welcoming Walk-through** where there will be a few arrangements adjusted from the usual fair. Therefore, the event was planned through COVID-19 Risk Assessment Plan that form part of the organizing of this project, plans for events and risk management such as security plan, medic plan and waste management which was submitted to ICBC and Stellenbosch Municipality for approval of this walk-through. The event took place on the **05th of March** from **14:00- 18:30**.

Observations and Feedback.

The welcoming walk-through was a success, well planned with assistance of Student Governance. The following outlines the budget and financial perspective of the welcoming walk-through along with collaboration with Maties Sports.

SOCIETIES COUNCIL AND MATIES SPORT							
WELCOMING WALK-THROUGH BUDGET 2021							
INCOME				EXPENSE			
DESCRIPTION	NOTE	PROJECTED	ACTUAL	DESCRIPTION	NOTE	PROJECTED	ACTUAL
Societies Council		R17,404.75	R6,177.25	Tables and Chairs		R7,000.00	R4,375.75
Maties Sport		R8,904.75	R8,987.00	Medical Plan	1	R850.50	R850.50
				Security Plan	4	R6,842.00	R3,542.00
				Security Officer	5	R2,500.00	R1,495.00
				Municipal Application Fee	2	R117.00	R117.00
				Sinage	3	R3,000.00	R210.00
				Societies Council - Car Rental		R2,000.00	R624.00
				Maties Sports - Car Rental		R1,000.00	R529.00
				Metro Cleaning Service	6	R3,500.00	R3,421.00
TOTAL		R26,309.50	R15,164.25	TOTAL		R26,809.50	R15,164.25

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NOTES	
	Societies Council
	Maties Sports
	Shared
1	Paid - Societies Council
2	Paid - Societies Council
3	Paid - Societies Council
4	Paid - Maties Sports
5	Paid - Maties Sports
6	Paid - Maties Sports

Further questions were posts to receive a feedback was extended to Societies Council.

1. How did you find welcoming walk-through?

- Definitely more helpful than expected. We still managed to attain quite a few new members despite the new format.
- Under the circumstances I think the societies council did the best they could. Being able to communicate with the first years helped them a bit
- It was a good idea, but I felt like there was a breakdown in communication for the most part of it and there is still room for improvement.

2. What did you do?

- The opportunity to be seen by first years.
- The use of heats allowed a lot more time to have people walk slowly through and ask one or two questions - which is so essential!
- SC exec presence, insuring covid compliance, provision of sanitizer and masks.
- Having all students come from one direction was beneficial to help predict when to be ready with all the QR codes and banners.

3. What would you change?

- Slow down the pace at which the first years were pushed through. Many were not able to take photos of details or ask us questions before being moved.

- Students should have been able to register to be part of societies at the time of walkthrough, to minimize chances of them forgetting to do it later.
- Allow students to have physical sign ups or scan the QR code which automatically allows them to sign up.
- Letting us know that Societies council so late in advance. Please be more prompt with dates and planning.

4. What recommendations do you have to improve the walkthrough?

- Try and get more first years to attend. I know that a few PSOs/Res's chose to not attend.
- Perhaps to have multiple people have each person's presentation (and be ready to present screen) so as to avoid technical difficulties in that respect.
- Online registration should be open at the time of the walkthrough since we had to limit interaction to keep the students moving.
- Perhaps have the walk through over a few days with only the societies per category. E.g. sport (only sports societies) minimizes time spent at stalls.

Task Teams

Social media

The Secretary is responsible for the updating of Social Media content and information. This term had a lot of Social Media engagement, taking the Societies' Walkthrough and Societies Week marketing into consideration. The secretary maintains the upkeep of the Social Media pages with the assistance of the task team that was developed in the beginning of his term.

Societies Constitutional Appraisal Task Team

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The administrative officer heads up SCATT and has established it with 4 members that sit on the council. She has received the go ahead from student court to start recruiting members for SCATT. She has further set a timeline of 4 weeks to complete all constitutions and we are well into our first week. Due note that a break will be taken over the period of recess.

Constitution and Policy

Office Policy

The Societies Council is a Section 3 body, established by the Student Constitution for the sacred task of protecting the rights of students as enshrined in the Bill of Student Rights. The Societies Council is especially entrusted with protecting the rights to, freedom of religion, belief, opinion, speech, and the freedom of association. The Societies Council is a unique structure amongst its Section 3 peers, being the only body that acquires its membership through voluntary association. Societies are an integral part of the enhanced student experience. Societies belong to all students, and thus the future and success of Societies are our collective future and success.

Therefore, ensuring that Societies work is our collective responsibility. Chapter 8 section 27.1.6 of Societies Council constitution stipulates the privileges of Societies being given access to the use of an office/storage space in the Langenhoven Student Centre (Neelsie). For a long time, Societies Offices were used without proper protocol to control the usage and movement within the offices also Societies Council Registrar struggles to have control over the office space usage. Therefore, these

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documents are prepared seek and to bring order and control over the office space usage and assist in rebuilding of Societies Council.

These document therefore was accepted by Societies Council as the governing policy for office usage, further binding to the principles set out in Societies Council constitution; and the principles set out in the Student Constitution and the Statute of Stellenbosch University.

Meetings

The constitution stipulates that the Societies Council Executive meets at least once every week. Therefore, the executive has decided on meeting every Friday of the week for the weekly executive meeting.

Council Meetings

During the second term of the council, only one (1) council meeting was scheduled. This meeting was scheduled for Wednesday the 19th of May. Due to unforeseen circumstances, we have had to have multiple council meetings and move the official term meeting to the 26th of May.

The council meeting was aimed at:

1. Sharing a way forward after the death of our Chairperson.
2. Discuss the proceedings of Societies' Week which falls under term 3.
3. Elections for the 2021/2022 term.
4. Closing function.
5. Amendments of the constitution.
6. Society Evaluation

Conclusion

As we went into the second (2nd) term of our term, we had a set plan of what we wanted to achieve as the executive for the betterment of societies. We were able to achieve all the plans and events we had projected for the 2nd term, though we had to push some dates due to circumstances that were beyond our control.

We, unfortunately had to end of our 2nd term on an extremely painful note with the loss of our chairperson and friend, Nomzamo. We found ourselves unable to figure out a way to function without such an integral part of our team, but we were able to persistent as that is what she would have wanted for us, and for the council.

The circumstances that we are faced with, as we continue to grieve our loss, are unique but it remains pivotal that we fulfil our constitutional obligations. The executive looks forward to welcoming the incoming 2021/2022 executive as we enter our last term in office. we hope to equip them to the best of our ability.

Recommendations to improve portfolio

Due to the circumstances of the way I attained the ex-officio portfolio on the SRC, I have no recommendations because I have had no work that particularly SRC, my focus has solely been on the Societies Council.

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