SRC 2020/2021 Term 3 Report

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Constitutional Responsibilities

As Chapter 6 Section 77 of the Student Constitution states, the Academic Affairs Council (AAC) is responsible for promoting the rights of students in Chapter 2, but more specifically in Section 8(2) for quality education, academic support, and transparent and justifiable assessment procedures. Thus, the curriculum and co-curriculum activities and their intersection falls under the support structure of the AAC.

Portfolio Overview

The AAC focuses on ensuring fair representation within the academic space, while facilitating the strive for academic success and excellence. The council serves as a link between the SRC and the faculties, coordinating and facilitating necessary support and interaction through the chairperson of the AAC who sits on the SRC as an Ex-Officio Member. Its three responsibility areas are Academics, Co-Curricular Activities and Research.

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For Stellenbosch University (SU), this leads to the AAC being the main body where Faculty Student Committees (Student Representation at a Faculty Level) are able to coordinate activities and create a cooperative environment that allows for faculties to interact, and through the AAC, to be represented at an Institutional level.

Within the South African context, the AAC is a body that can actively promote the improvement of higher education systems throughout the country through academic, co-curricular and research.

Committees / Task Teams

SRC Executive Committee

Senate: The highest decision-making body of the University for Academic and Research decisions.

Academic Planning Committee: It is responsible for final decisions revolving around academic planning for the University. It reports directly to Senate. This committee focuses on topics such as new research centres, programme changes and so forth.

The notable agenda point of this term's sitting of the APC, saw the support of the creation of the Centre for Democracy, a centre designed to specialise in the research and study of democracy.

Quality Assurance Committee: It is responsible for reviewing every department within the University with respects to the overall quality level. Ultimately recommending adjustments and requesting feedback on such for approval.

*Due to the change in examination times and calendar schedule, I was unable to attend this term's sitting of the QA Committee.

Co-Curriculum Review Committee: It is the committee responsible for accrediting co-curricular activities at the University.

*Due to changes in the agenda, this term's sitting was rescheduled.

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Language Policy Review Committee: It exists as a review process of the Language Policy, both for feedback as well as improvement.

After the initial feedback of last term from the initial first draft of the new policy, the second draft has been constructed, sent out, and the committee is in the process of filtering through the feedback.

SunSuccess Steering Committee: It exists as the creation process of the SunSuccess system, both for feedback as well as improvement.

*The Academic Affairs Council Chair holds a seat on the **Committee for Learning & Teaching**, the **Institutional Forum**, and the **Timetable Committee**. These seats have been delegated to members within the AAC and reports from these committees will be curated and collected at the end of the leadership term.

Term Overview
The following highlights the term from May (2021) to the beginning of Aug (2021):

1. Wednesday Lives

   With schedules settled in, the continuation of the fortnightly Wednesday Lives will ensure engagement on relevant topics within the academic success space.

   All lives hold valuable information which can be found on our Instagram page. (@accstellies)

2. Process Diagrams

   With the constant increase of information, one finds themselves often afloat from what they are looking for, the AAC has set itself the task of closing this information gap by creating simple yet effective process diagrams in order to assist both students and student leadership structures in navigating the academic grievance space.

   This term saw the finalisation of these process diagrams.

3. Leadership Development

   The AAC cocurricular saw its closing stages with the completion of the final sessions needed.

   A session of Risk and Events Management from Mr Brandon Como, guiding us through the process of ensuring an event is both safe and successful.

4. Collaborations

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This term saw the collaboration between the JV (Law), ESC (Engineering) and EBSK (EMS) faculty committees to host a highly successful quiz night on the 10th of May.

5. Exam Campaign

The AAC focused on two initiatives during the pre-exam and exam period.

A push to engage with students of all faculties, and in turn with key managing stakeholders and decision makers. These engagements identified areas of concern as well as ways to address these areas for the upcoming semester. Areas of change brought during this campaign were the returning of data allowance, the schedule extension and reopening of the CUAs, as well as the A4 examination period.

Additionally, the use of social media found a push to promote mental health, exam tips, and general motivation.

6. General Assistance and Support

The AAC once again sought to being the voice of student academic concerns on campus. With the class rep systems up and running, as well as the general individual cases processed, the AAC ensured another term of representation.

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Budget
Budget & Reasoning

Academic Affairs Council		R76,172.65

Project	Note	Amount		Note	Description	Expense Type	Quantity	Price	Amount
						Breakdown of Projects			
Leadership Development	1	R17,625.00		1	Leadership Development				
AAC Camp	2	R20,000.00			FVZS Course	Training	25	R625.00	R15,625.00
Transport	3	R1,000.00			AAC Training	Training			
Honouria	4	R29,000.00			Speaker Gifts		10	R200.00	R2,000.00
Merchandise	5	R8,547.65							R17,625.00
Employment Development Campaign	6	R3,500.00							
				2	AAC Camp				
					Events during camp p/p (4)	Other	25	R800.00	R20,000.00
									R20,000.00
				3	Transport				
					To training	Transport	1	R1,000.00	R1,000.00
									R1,000.00
				4	Honouria				
					Vice-Chair	Compensation: Internal	1	R9,500.00	R9,500.00
					Treasurer	Compensation: Internal	1	R6,500.00	R6,500.00
					Marketing Officer	Compensation: Internal	1	R6,500.00	R6,500.00
					Secretary	Compensation: Internal	1	R6,500.00	R6,500.00
									R29,000.00
				5	Merchandise				
					Golfer		25	R133.29	R3,332.25
					Hoodie		5	R314.53	R1,572.65
					Brim hat		25	R98.33	R2,458.25
					Peak cap		25	R47.38	R1,184.50
									R8,547.65
				6	Employment Development Campaign				
					Photographer	Compensation: External	5	R500.00	R2,500.00
					Equipment Hire	Other	5	R200.00	R1,000.00
					Course Development	Other	3	R0.00	R0.00
									R3,500.00

Expenditure so far

Academic Affairs Council		R34,556.65

Project	Note	Amount		Note	Description	Expense Type	Quantity	Price	Amount
						Breakdown of Projects			
Leadership Development	1	R9,400.00		1	Leadership Development				
AAC Camp	2	R1,859.00			FVZS Course	Training	1	R625.00	R625.00
Honouria	3	R14,750.00				Training	5	R925.00	R4,625.00
Merchandise	4	R8,547.65			AAC Training				
Faculty Collaborations	5	R5,477.50			Lunch	Refreshments	26	R75.00	R1,950.00
					Speaker Gifts	Compensation: External	11	R200.00	R2,200.00
									R9,400.00
				2	AAC Camp				
					Lanzerac Social	Refreshments	18	R77.00	R1,386.00
					Picnic Social	Refreshments	1	R473.00	R473.00
									R1,859.00
				3	Honouria				
					Vice-Chair	Compensation: Internal	1	R5,000.00	R5,000.00
					Treasurer	Compensation: Internal	1	R3,250.00	R3,250.00
					Marketing Officer	Compensation: Internal	1	R3,250.00	R3,250.00
					Secretary	Compensation: Internal	1	R3,250.00	R3,250.00
									R14,750.00
				4	Merchandise				
					Golfer	Merchndise	25	R133.29	R3,332.25
					Hoodie	Merchndise	5	R314.53	R1,572.65
					Brim hat	Merchandise	25	R98.33	R2,458.25
					Peak cap	Merchandise	25	R47.38	R1,184.50
									R8,547.65
				5	Faculty Collaborations				
					Lab Coat Drive	Internal Transfer	1	R3,000.00	R3,000.00
					Faculty Quiz Night	Internal Transfer	1	R2,477.50	R2,477.50
									R5,477.50

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1. Leadership Development
   - The AAC Training concluded with the final presentations presented this term, aimed at targeting the various requirement of the approved co-curricular. Speakers were thanked with gift vouchers and members given meal vouchers.
2. AAC Camp
   - Due to concern over COVID, the budgeted camp was turned into various smaller socials and team builders.
   - The Lanzerac social served as a good team building experience, taking the team away from MS Teams for a change. The event aided in relieving some of the signs of burnout that were beginning to creep into the foreground.
3. Collaboration
   - The AAC financially assisted in the success of the inter-Faculty quiz night.

Plans for next term

1. Wednesday Lives

   With schedules settled in, the continuation of the fortnightly Wednesday Lives will ensure engagement on relevant topics within the academic success space.

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2. Process Diagrams

   The finalisation and distribution of process diagrams will ensue.

3. Employment Development Initiate

   In collaboration with the Leadership Development Portfolio of the SRC, the AAC will be organising a series of sessions, activities, and resources aimed at assisting student's preparation for employment.

4. Elections

   This term will see the AAC elections take place on the 19th of August. Where a new Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson will be elected and spend the rest of the term shadowing and transitioning into the position with hopefully the most immersive handover period the AAC has experienced.

5. Constitution Rewrite

   Over the past three terms, the AAC has undergone a constitutional review, with a final draft coming to fruition. This new draft will fall in line with the amendments made to the student constitution this term.

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Important Contacts

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- Gershwin Fritz – gfritz@sun.ac.za *(Student Governance)*

- Dr Ronel Retief – ronelretief@sun.ac.za *(Registrar)*

- Ashmind Daniels – ashmind@sun.ac.za *(Deputy-Registrar)*

- Prof Deresh Ramjugernath – dereshr@sun.ac.za *(Vice Rector: Learning & Teaching)*

- Kate Roodt – kateroodt@sun.ac.za *(Co-Curriculum Coordinator)*

- Dr Antoinette Van der Merwe – advdm@sun.ac.za (Senior Director: Learning and Teaching Enhancement)

- Brandon Como – como@sun.ac.za (Events and Security Operations Officer)

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