



SRC 2020/2021 Annual Report

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Constitutional Responsibilities

I am mandated to actively promote the rights of students according to the Student Constitution, and specifically, the right, under section 8(1), to do my part in enabling a campus environment in which student success and academic excellence are encouraged and pursued.

Furthermore, according to the Prim Committee's own constitution, my responsibilities include:

- Holding the highest authority in the Prim Committee.
- Planning and chairing biweekly Prim Committee meetings.
- Planning and chairing weekly/biweekly (depending on the need) PC Executive meetings.
- Representing the PC on various bodies as determined at Prim Committee meetings and as determined by other relevant SU bodies.
- Representing all houses in spaces in the absence of the Vice Chairperson and vice versa
- Regular meetings with the CSC director
- Participation in various committees including the MAK, SHC, Welcoming Program Committee, and SRC,

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- To provide guidance and assistance wherever the communities require.

Portfolio Overview

As the primary caretaker of the PSO's, a mandatory goal is to ensure the personal and leadership development of PSO Primarii, which will in turn benefit the overall community-building within our private student structures. This is achieved via the informal relationships that I establish with the PSO leaders, as well as at structured spaces, such as the developmental Strategic Conferences (StratCons) which offer a platform for PSO Primarii and Vice Primarii to engage collaboratively with community-specific and campus-related issues in order to develop leadership abilities and promote the PSO space and what it has to offer. The PSO Caretaker works alongside the PSO Office at the Centre of Student Communities (CSC), to develop and orchestrate three annual StratCons, each tailored appropriately to the needs of the communities and the climate on campus.

The key responsibilities of the PSO Caretaker include the following:

- Weekly meetings with the PSO Office,
- Orchestration of three Strategic Conferences,
- Planning of various developmental opportunities for Primarii.
- Administering the PSO Pre-welcoming initiative
- Facilitating leadership trainings for the House Committees
- Attending Annual Discussions

The role of an ex-officio SRC member in this context is fulfilled through active participation in the body and accurate representation of the PSO constituency. A trusted and reliable link of information and representation b

etween the PSO structures and the SRC are formed through my role's position on the SRC.

Committees / Task Teams

Student Housing Committee (SHC) – Chiefly oversees physical developmental affairs of student housing on campus. It is chaired by the Vice-Rector of Teaching and Learning and is further comprised of the PC Chair and Vice-Chair, the Directors of Project Management, CSC, Residence placement office, as well as the Senior Directors of SU International, SunCom, Student Affairs and Student Access.

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The Senate – The Senate is accountable for the academic and research functions of the University. The Senate may also be delegated or assigned other functions by the Council.

Monitors Advies Komitee (MAK) – Receives and acts upon information provided by the monitors program during the welcoming period in order to compile an annual Monitor’s Report to report on and align communities’ welcoming practices. The committee is comprised of the PC Chair, Pieter Kloppers (Director of CSC), Monica du Toit (Res-ed Coordinator: Victoria Cluster), JC Rademeyer, and a few other relevant stakeholders.

Welcoming Program Committee – Amalgamates the annual Welcoming Program’s stakeholders across the University’s structures, such as faculties, Student Governance, CSC and many others.

The Senate Library Committee – The Library Committee is a branch from within the Senate, which is responsible for ensuring efficient management of the Stellenbosch University libraries as well as the logistics surrounding the research materials, developing sections and so forth.

The SRC Constitutional Review Committee – The Committee has been mandated by the SRC’s Policy Officer to review and amend the Student Constitution.

The Prim Committee Constitution Review Task Team – The Task Team has been mandated to review and amend the Prim Committee Constitution, by the Prim Committee Executive. This committee is focused on restructuring and reviewing the Prim Committee Constitution as well as what other supporting structures it requires to ensure optimal performance.

The PC Policy Forum – The Policy Forum is a platform that was created with the intention of assisting the Houses with the relevant tools, documents and expertise that may be needed as they seek to create and/or amend their internal House Policies. PC Executive – Oversees the strategic planning of the Prim Committee and is comprised of the PC Chair and Vice-Chair, the PC’s treasurer, the PC’s secretary, the external Cluster Convenor Executive member, and the Tygerberg PC Chair.

Alcohol Policy Task Team – Consists of the PC Chair, Vice Chair, Lisinda de Jager And Pieter Kloppers, and it is a team that is responsible for drawing up the newly formulated residence rule regarding alcohol consumption in SU residence spaces.

The SRC Honoraria Task Team – This task team was mandated to review the student leader payment structure and is comprised by various representatives in different spheres, such as the PC, AAC, Societies Council and so forth, to ensure accurate representation for all student leaders on campus.

Leadership Summit for Aspiring Leaders 2021 Task Team- This task team focuses on the coordination of the leadership summit, by evaluating relevant data as well as numerous student

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consultation. The team aims to host a summit which will enable positional and non-positional leaders to become active citizens.

Connect Election Panel – This panel was comprised by the PC Chair, JC Rademeyer and Naweed Mullajie and was tasked with electing the Connect Committee of 2021

Rubix.Net Task Team – This task team was created to pioneer the Senior PSO concept and was comprised by various seniors, leadership and otherwise, alongside Jethro Georgiades, Lisinda de Jager and Minette Sieberhagen.

Cluster Proposal Team – This team was created as part of my initiative to develop and improve the relationship with Cluster and its function. It focused on constitutional changes and adaptations which are required to strengthen the relation between the Prim Committee and Cluster as well as to improve the overall efficacy.

SRC Inauguration Planning- This committee is tasked with planning the upcoming SRC inauguration, to ensure the ceremony runs smoothly

Maties Shirt 2022 planning- This team was created to work on the design of the 2022 Maties Tshirt for the newcomers

DSAF Campus Review Task Teams – They are all aimed at analysing different aspects of University spaces, to report on the culture on campus, as commissioned by Dr. Choice. I sit on the following:

Campus Election Review- This task team focuses on how elections on campus are conducted, with an in depth look at how elections were conducted during the pandemic last year, in different divisions, and how the legislation in constitutions will need adapting to ensure that online elections are constitutional.

Commuter Students- This task team focuses on how to identify the pressing issues that commuter students are struggling with and how the CSC and PSO office, alongside the division of student affairs can improve their campus experience, issues pertaining to their daily functioning, such as parking, hubs and access to campus spaces are most pressing.

LGBTQ- This task team is focused on addressing the campus culture surrounding LGBTQIA+ awareness and how to ensure a more welcoming and inclusive experience on campus.

Res Head Appointment and Training- This task team focuses on how Res Heads are appointed, what criteria is applied and how the appointment panels are conducted, as it is mainly an internal CSC procedure, it also reviews the necessary trainings that Res Heads have to undergo and whether or not it is sufficient to equip them for the job.

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Year Overview

Term I

SRC:

As per my constitutional mandate in the Student Constitution, I have fulfilled my attendance requirements of both SRC and Student Parliament meetings, sittings and caucuses, and have actively engaged and interacted with the agendas in order to fully serve my constituency.

The first term with the Prim Committee, apart from meeting planning and interactions with the Executive Committee, required my attendance and contributions at the Annual Discussions of various communities including PSOs, residences and Clusters. These conversations allowed for a more coherent and in depth understanding of community leaders' visions and plans for their respective terms as well as for an opportunity ask questions and offer direction where necessary.

This term also necessitated the planning of the Prim Camp, alongside Pieter Kloppers – the camp facilitated training, brainstorming and networking opportunity for the Prims at the start of their terms. University staff and experienced student leaders were incorporated to facilitate the sessions. As the camp took place during a pandemic, we had to ensure safety protocols were in place for the camp to take place physically. It took place over the course of 2 days and covered an array of topics, such as acceptance over what one cannot control, the SU structures and the rewriting of house traditions. The PC Vice Chairperson and I also formed part of the team to elect the new House's Prim and Vice Prim, but the House was disbanded after the Rectorate came to an agreement with Huis Marais, where we then played a role and will continue to, in how Huis Marais will improve and abide by the agreement.

During my term I have offered my support during the Prim Development Program (PDP) sessions where necessary. The PDP is a biweekly program that focusses on the development of the Prims as leaders, which will eventually evaluate whether or not the Prims will be accredited for their leadership at the end of their terms. Through communicating with the Coordinator on the current struggles that the Prims are experiencing, we have been able to mould the program to truly suit and address the current needs of the Prims, be it COVID related struggles, Res Head issues or House Committee trainings.

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Working with the PSO Office at CSC has allowed for my input in a managerial capacity with the PSO's. My first responsibility was to help plan the PSO calendar, which would determine deadlines for elections, trainings and various other initiatives. I then had to help plan and facilitate leadership training for all the prospective PSO leaders, which took place virtually. This training session was largely focussed structural understanding of the student leadership body and all the different spheres of the University. I then had to plan and facilitate the first annual StratCon, which took place in person and had all the PSO prims in attendance, albeit 2 virtually. The training was structured to aid the Prims facilitating conversations based on socio-political issues such as #BlackLivesMatter and consisted of various sessions facilitated by the PSO office and I, team building activities, lunch and a distress activity to end off the day. We also had a PSO office strategic planning, in which we determined the long-, medium- and long-term plan for the PSO structure, to ensure prosperity and growth. By doing this, we also worked with the PSO's to align our goals with the ones that was set out for them in the previous leadership term, which also initiated a process of reevaluating the goals set out in 2020, to see what needed adjustment, what goals have been achieved and how to build on these goals.

Furthermore, I have been required to commit extensively to ensure a successful welcoming period midst a pandemic. I have had to attend various meetings to provide input and aid on how the Welcoming proceedings should take place. This has taken a lot of teamwork, alongside the Prims and members of CSC, to stabilize the communication channels and to keep the relevant stakeholders in the loop. The second term involved extensive commitment to the success of the welcoming period.

Committees and Task Teams

Student Housing Committee (SHK) – This committee has had two meetings thus far.

Issues included the University's large financial loss due to COVID 19, residences returning to full capacity, the continuation of various projects, which were placed on hold due to COVID 19, such as the Huis Ten Bosch, as well as other budgetary matters and other planned upgrades.

Monitors Advies Komitee (MAK) – This committee has yet to have a meeting, but has been established.

The Senate – The Senate has had one meeting, where Vice Rector Skoonwinkel gave in his

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year report and bid his farewell. We also voted on various matters and discussed what the new academic year would look like.

Welcoming Program Committee – This committee has been having weekly meetings since December, to try and prepare as much as possible for the various COVID stages and how the faculties and Houses will host events.

PC Executive – We have had regular meetings discussing campus matters and PC agenda points, as well as the establishment of the Constitutional Review Task Team and Policy Forum.

The SRC Constitutional Review Committee – The Committee has been meeting weekly and aims to have the review completed in March.

The Prim Committee Constitution Review Task Team – The Task Team has been meeting weekly and has projected to finish the review in April.

The PC Policy Forum – The Forum has met once and has created a platform for houses to dissect and evaluate their internal policies.

Alcohol Policy Task Team – This Task Team has met twice and aims to have completed the policy at the end of February.

The SRC Honoraria Task Team – This Task Team has met 3 times and has yet to meet again, in the new year.

Connect Election Panel – The panel has successfully appointed the Connect Committee and Vensters 2021's planning is well underway.

Senior PSO Task Team – This Task Team has met on numerous occasions and plans to pilot the concept in February.

3. Other

Additionally, I have aided in the setup of the onboarding program, which has been pioneered to help newcomers adapt to the university life before arriving on campus.

Term 2

As per my constitutional mandate in the Student Constitution, I have fulfilled my attendance requirements of both SRC and Student Parliament meetings, and sittings, and have actively engaged and interacted with the agendas in order to fully serve my constituency.

The second term was largely focussed on the planning for a successful welcoming week, which required numerous meetings with various stakeholders, including the Prim Committee, Welcoming Program Committee as well as interactions with the monitors and Connect Committee. I also initiated a pre welcoming template which many of the communities used to interact with their

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newcomers before their official arrival on campus. This went extremely well, as the engagement received from the communities was substantial.

Successful events include the 2021 photo, Dream Walk and Virtual Vensters. During welcoming, I had meetings with the MAC Committee every second day, as they reported on the problems that arose in the communities as welcoming proceeded. These issues were addressed within 24hrs of their logging and I was asked to report back to the committee in every meeting. I was also asked to attend Dagbreek events by their Prim, to ensure their behaviour was above board. The MAC Committee has since then, approved the monitor report and will be distributing it by the end of June.

The PSO office also hosted a second welcoming, for the students with late acceptance, this required all the PSO's to submit a welcoming program for the day, to showcase campus and their community to the students. This was very successful, as there were over a 100 attendees.

We have also continued working on our constitution and other policies to ensure that the constitution speaks to that which is required of the Prim Committee as well as how to hold us accountable. This also required me to get involved in other policy reform task teams, such as the SRC Constitutional Review, as it would directly influence our own structure, as a serving ex-officio structure.

We have hosted several events as the Prim Committee, such as the virtual run, which was a very successful initiative, and it received a significant amount of traction. The other initiative that was very successful, was the communities' donation drive which was aimed at the UCT fire, we organised transport for the donations and our help was greatly appreciated by the firefighters as well as the UCT students.

As the PSO caretaker, I hosted a successful StratCon at Spier with the help of the PSO team, aimed at equipping the prims with the tools to see their term and goals through successfully, as well as to focus on their personal development and upcoming elections, the conference was attended by Prof. Deresh and Dr. Choice. We also shared the PSO strategic plans for the next 5 years with the prims and CSC. This engagement also helped realign the goals that still need to be achieved by the end of this year by the PSO office, as we aim to launch the .net communities in all the clusters and start a new PSO.

I have also helped in the restructuring of the PSO office, as we have come to realise that the current structure will soon start stagnating and thus we aim to recruit a new permanent staff member, as there are approximately 11 000 PSO students and only two coordinators. The restructuring has

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been submitted to Prof. Deresh for approval.

During my term I have offered my support during the Prim Development Program (PDP) sessions where necessary. The PDP is a biweekly program that focusses on the development of the Prims as leaders, which will eventually evaluate whether or not the Prims will be accredited for their leadership at the end of their terms. Through communicating with the Coordinator on the current struggles that the Prims are experiencing, we have been able to mould the program to truly suit and address the current needs of the Prims, be it COVID related struggles, Res Head issues or House Committee trainings.

We hosted a successful Prim Dinner at the Grappa Shed to celebrate the half term mark and a successful welcoming week. The event was well attended and served as an effective morale boost, to ensure that the prims can relax as well.

Term 3

As per my constitutional mandate in the Student Constitution, I have fulfilled my attendance requirements of both SRC and Student Parliament meetings, and sittings, and have actively engaged and interacted with the agendas in order to fully serve my constituency.

The third term was mainly focussed on ensuring the Covid procedures were strictly enforced and that the necessary discipline was enforced. We also focussed largely on the rewriting of our constitution and the other structures, such as the Accountability Commission, which will be accompanying our constitution, was planned and penned down efficiently. We met with our relevant stakeholders and consulted them with regards to how we would implement these structures within the residence rules and so forth.

Furthermore, we focussed on the Welcoming reports and possible solutions to problems with The Matie Shop. This was done through correspondence with the necessary stakeholders and I presented a possible solution to the backlog that we always experience with regards to merch during Welcoming, that being that the outgoing HC design the merch for the next Welcoming, this was received fairly well with in the PC and we hope to see it implemented for the upcoming Welcoming.

I also spent a lot of time lobbying for the Cluster Hubs development, as the process was placed on the backburner by SunCom and thus, I had to ensure pressure was placed on them from all sides. This took up a substantial amount of strategizing to guarantee that all relevant stakeholders were convinced and committed to the process, which meant I had to release a statement, and present my

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case to the IF, Student Housing Committee as well as Council, which is still coming up.

The PSO hosted a very successful prospective leadership training session, which had a 190 attendees, this training was mandatory for all prospective mentors and HC applicants and was focussed on the expectations of the leadership roles, a broad structure overview and the general just of what goes on behind the scenes in these leadership positions. There was also a session which focussed on how to utilise and manage social media, during these hybrid times and how one can remain an active community even though there are physical limitations. Overall, it was very successful.

We also focussed on setting up our elections, which required meetings with the election committee and sorting out the overall process to ensure it aligns with our constitutional requirements. This has come together effectively and we will be electing the new Chair and Vice on the 16th of August.

Lastly, a large part of my term was spent on representing the PC on all of the DSAF task teams, to ensure their concerns were heard. This took up a substantial amount of time, as I sat on 4 of these task teams and had to assist with writing up the reports and help present it to Dr. Choice.

Term 4

This term was largely dedicated to wrapping up existing projects and continuing with the necessary lobbying for the Cluster Hubs, our Constitution and all other relevant policies. We successfully held our election and appointed the new Chairperson and Vice- Chairperson of the Prim Committee and thus commenced the handover period. During the handover period, we organized a handover conference as well as handover meetings where necessary.

We managed to vote in our Constitution before the end of our term and we are now waiting on Student Court to ratify the Constitution. Furthermore, I was consulted on numerous res rule changes and the entire Prim Committee was consulted with regards to the changes made to the Alcohol policy.

From the PSO aspect, I helped orchestrate and present trainings to the prospective and newly appointed leaders of the PSO's, which focussed on setting the right mindset and what to expect of leadership as well as virtual offerings and how to manage and utilize it effectively. I also finished up with the necessary DSAF task teams that I formed a part of.

Furthermore, I hosted the Rector's Awards and helped with the planning of the SRC inauguration, alongside Alme Engelbrecht.

Year

Overall the year was nothing short of chaotic, but alongside my committee and team, we managed to complete most, if not all our main goals for the year. We helped enable some of the other SRC

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projects, by creating a communications' link and we tried to steer and aid wherever we could and whenever someone asked for help. It was an incredibly rewarding journey. Through availing myself as much as I could wherever I could and standing firm when representing my constituency, I achieved what needed to be achieved in the SRC space, while fostering an welcoming environment for my constituency.

Recommendations to improve portfolio

I would recommend that the entire SRC have a sitdown to discuss exactly what is expected of one another, seeing as many SRC members have a misconstrued idea of what the Prim Committee does or how it functions, which leads to a lot of misunderstanding and frustration. This will also help to avoid unnecessary infringement into ex officio structures.

Furthermore, I would recommend a definitive year plan for the Prim Committee Executive to ensure that goals are met and that there is a tangible timeline and measurement staff to ensure that the goals are met.

Important Contacts

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