



SRC 2020/2021 Annual Report

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Constitutional Responsibilities

This term was greatly hindered by the change in COVID-19 restrictions from Level 4 to Level 3 and back again. Likewise, the exam season meant that a lot of my plans could not be executed due to the house rule that no events may be planned for or that students are not required to attend events during and prior to their exams. This led to my pushing to complete the plans I have budgeted for all in August 2021.

Portfolio Overview

The Safety and Security portfolio aims to assist the SRC in any capacity with regards to safety on campus and to inform the SRC of any feedback obtained by the students. The portfolio remains in communication with Campus Security and Facilities management as well the Safety VP's of Stellenbosch University Residences and PSO wards as the Stellenbosch Safety Think Tank. Relevant information will be relayed via the appropriate channels to the SRC and the students. This term I found that my responsibility goes as far as ensuring the safety of students in communal areas such as the Neelsie as well as ensuring that the Campus Shuttle service is working.

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Committees / Task Teams

The Safety and Security Manager heads the Stellenbosch Safety Think Tank that allows for an open channel of communication between the SRC, Campus Security and the Safety HK from different residences and PSO wards.

Year Overview

Term I

On the 20th of October at 18h00- 19h00, I held the Student Concerns dialogue via Microsoft teams. Here students were able to voice their concerns and needs as it pertains to their safety and security at Stellenbosch University. The information gathered from this meeting will guide my term and what I will focus on in fulfilling my duties and responsibilities.

On the 26th of October I finally established the Stellenbosch Safety Think Tank Email group and Whatsapp group that will allow Campus Security, myself as the Safety and Security Manager and the Safety VP's of Stellenbosch University Residences and PSO wards will communicate directly on everything that pertains to the safety of their constituents.

On the 29th of October @17h00 -18h00 I will hold the inaugural meeting of the Stellenbosch Safety Think Tank. In November, I looked into the University Policy on cyberbullying which is available on the university's website.

November 2020, was marked by the loss of a student through suicide, which highlighted the need for the plans of this portfolio to be centered around promoting and protecting the Mental Health of students.

In January 2021, I have been involved in assisting Campus Security with organizing First Aid training for the Stellenbosch and Tygerberg Safety HK. This training will happen around the 25th of February online and in-person.

On the 2nd of February, The SRC had its inaugural meeting. I used this meeting as an opportunity to enquire about the information the members had with regards to the Neelsie protocols and residence regulations for Covid-19. Immediately after this meeting I met with Ms Le Roux from Campus Security and Jonah Ellis, a student from Eendrag, to hear about his proposal for Eendrag students offering to volunteer and assist Campus Security with a Walk with me Initiative. He will be submitting a formal proposal in the second week of February that I will submit to the SRC and Student Affairs for any comments or queries.

On Wednesday, 3rd of February, the SRC met with the new Vice Rector and shared our vision and mission for 2021. On Thursday, 4th of February the SRC met with Mr Kloppers to get a briefing on the plan for the Welcoming programme. This briefing emphasized the great deal of responsibility placed on student leaders to promote the safety of students during welcoming and overall, under the COVID-19 pandemic that still lingers.

On Friday 05th of February, I had a meeting with student governance; the SRC Secretary and Mr Gary Howell to find out the protocols in place and those that need to be put in place at the Neelsie. Here again the onus falls on the SRC to drive a COVID-19 Safety campaign to promote compliance of the covid protocols put in place. Later on, I met with Campus Security to discuss the Welcoming period. Here I was updated on the First aid training of Safety HK happening later in November; the plan to work with a company to offer pepper sprays and other safety equipment at a discount to Stellenbosch University students. Here Campus Security informed me of the plans to give me digital content that

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will be circulated on SRC and TSR platforms to educate students about Campus security; how to identify a campus security official and how to use the walk with me service.

Term 2

This term I had a successful Welcoming Period and assisted two prospective students in the Faculty of Medicine and fortunately one of these students was successful. This term echoed a Zero Tolerance to GBV and as part of the COVID-19 Safety campaign myself, Eduard and Alme managed to distribute SRC branded material promoting COVID-19 Safety and Compliance on both Stellenbosch and Tygerberg Campus. These can be seen on Stellenbosch campus street poles; the Neelsie display screen as well as display screens across both campuses.

I worked with the SRC Branding and Marketing Manager, Alme to distribute how students can use the Campus Security walk with me service on Tygerberg as well as Stellenbosch Campus and also distributed Safety Tips and emergency contacts on the SRC Social media pages as well as the Stellenbosch safety think tank.

In April, I approached 5 Stellenbosch-based companies that sell safety equipment such as pepper sprays and tasers with the request that they please offer 5-50% discounts to Stellenbosch students who purchase pepper sprays at their stores. The idea being that students have access to this vital item at a discount whenever they want to purchase it. I was unfortunately met with a negative response; however, various Safety HK were able to order pepper sprays for their residents through Astek Security and Self Defence stellenbosch@astek.co.za at R95 per individual pepper spray and got a small discount when making large orders.

In my capacity I attended two protests namely the LGBTQIA+ protest calling for JusticeForLebo and an EndGBV protest held at Parliament in Cape Town. I believe actions speak louder than words and that this should be expected from future Safety and Security Managers.

I was also approached by a company that offers self defence classes and now need to start the process of making this company a creditor so it can have a working relationship with future Safety managers. Through the Oude Molen PSO Vice-Prim, this company held a demonstration class for free for 30+ students on the 10th of May at 17:30 – 18:00 on the Coetzenburg Rugby field.

I recently also applied to be a part of the SU Unfair Discrimination and Harassment Panel of Inquiry and I'm still waiting for the outcome of my application. I believe that being a part of this committee is mandatory for SRC Safety and Security Managers in future as it will allow the SRC to be more aware of and able to answer students when it comes to dealing with GBV at SU. The Panel of Inquiry is responsible for conducting investigations after the advisors have filed official complaints and have referred the matter to an advisory panel.

Term 3

This term was largely a blur in terms of implementing the plans I have budgeted for. What I was able to do was fulfil the duties of communicating with the Stellenbosch safety think tank, Campus security and Transport services.

I was fortunate enough to represent the Secretary-General, Eduard Zehrt at the 8th SAUS National Elective Conference held at the University of Venda, Thoyandhou in Limpopo from the 25th – 28th of June. Here, my colleague the Special Needs Manager, Luigia Nicholas was elected as an additional member of the NEC.

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The term also saw the unfortunate violence and looting that scurged Gauteng and KZN and the emotional turmoil from that as well as the simultaneous Taxi Violence that gripped Cape Town for the entirety of July. It was quite worrisome my request to student affairs that there should be accurate information distributed to students with regards to the Taxi violence and the direct/indirect emotional turmoil caused by the traumatic daily experiences faced by the cleaners. For instance, the shuttle service was not adjusted nor was their availability or lack thereof communicated to students.

Lastly, I was selected to be a part of the SU Unfair Discrimination and Harassment Panel of Inquiry and completed my training on the 30th of July. I believe that being a part of this committee is mandatory for SRC Safety and Security Managers in future as it will allow the SRC to be more aware of and able to answer students when it comes to dealing with GBV at SU. The Panel of Inquiry is responsible for conducting investigations after the advisors have filed official complaints and have referred the matter to an advisory panel.

The functions of a panel member include:

- Committing to being a panel member for two years
- Conducting preliminary investigations into matters of unfair discrimination and harassment which have been reported to the Equality Unit.
- Provide recommendations to SU, complainants and respondents on a way forward.
- Communicate that mediation be a strong component to conflict resolution.
- Report writing on the outcomes of the investigation.
- Provide recommendations to the Equality Unit on how to eliminate unfair discrimination, harassment, sexual harassment and GBV at SU.

Term 4

The main objective for this term was to complete all tasks that were planned and to use the funds that were budgeted for. Due to COVID-19 restrictions and the sudden change from the self defence company, I was unable to have an in-person nor a virtual self-defence demonstration, in the previous term, where students would have gotten the opportunity to be equipped with this vital skill and be able to receive pepper sprays. I am grateful to the outgoing treasurer, Phillip Visage, for his assistance in procuring Takealot vouchers and Pepper sprays. I saw it meaningful for my portfolio and the future of this portfolio to support the Disability Indaba that took place on the 1st of September 2021 and to support the Special Needs portfolio in general, as the safety and security of students with special needs at the institution is often ignored. Working with the Special needs manager, Luigia Nicholas, the 26 students in attendance at the Disability Indaba received Takealot vouchers and Pepper Sprays.

Due to ever changing COVID-19 restrictions my plans to have virtual safety awareness talks through external stakeholders such as the Parow and Stellenbosch SAPS; Parow and Stellenbosch Local Neighbourhood Watch and the Parow and Stellenbosch Fire Department were unsuccessful. However, documents containing information on crime statistics and fire safety have been made available on the SRC website. Such safety awarenesses need to happen in future and approaching and securing the dates for these with the above-mentioned stakeholders prior to 2022 is advised.

The only planned task that has not yet happened is the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Mental Health Talk planned with the CSCD. The only response I have been getting is that this would happen in the second semester. I have not yet gotten a response on my enquiry as to whether this would happen in

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October as is it is the Mental Health Awareness Month. Here the plan was that students that would participate in this talk would get Takealot vouchers. So, if this talk does not happen in October then these vouchers will be handed over.

I am looking forward to meeting the new members of the 2021/2022 SRC on Friday, 17th September; participating fully in the evaluation process and look forward to applying again to manage this portfolio in 2021/2022 and build on the foundation I have laid and to be able to leave a legacy of a Safety and Security skeleton/blueprint so that students don't have to worry about their safety and security at the institution and for future managers or portfolio holders to be able to tackle other issues pertaining safety and security in their time.

Year

I am grateful that I was able to fulfil my constitutional mandate and build an administrative foundation for the safety and security portfolio. The greatest accomplishment has been the relationship that has been built with Campus Security, the transport division, Student Affairs and the TSR. The fibre and drive in fostering these relationships and the communication therein has been around the objective of tackling GBV and fostering a culture of a Zero-tolerance to GBV in these structures.

I must extend my extreme joy and gratitude to the SRC team of 2020/2021 in welcoming me and entrusting me with this portfolio and I hope I have made them proud. I worked well with my colleagues and avoided and did not yield to the direct or indirect conflicts that threatened the team. I wish them well in their individual journeys and pray that the soul of my colleague Nomzamo will continue to rest in peace.

Budget

Budget & Reasoning

At the beginning of my term there was not much to work from, from the my predecessor so my task was to lay a solid foundation and build this portfolio up from scratch. So, the objective was not to budget large sums (in an uncertain environment that COVID-19 posed) that would take away from the RegisterAll campaign.

Safety & Security			R72,00
<u>Alcohol and Substance Abuse Talk</u>			<u>R0,00</u>
Giveaways	R500,00	R500,00	R0,00
Wednesday, 15 September 2021 Page 10 of 14			
	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent	<u>Amount available</u>
<u>Cyberbully Talk</u>			<u>R0,00</u>
Giveaways	R300,00	R300,00	R0,00
<u>Safety on Campus forum</u>			<u>R0,00</u>
Giveaways	R400,00	R400,00	R0,00
<u>Self-defence demonstration</u>			<u>R72,00</u>
Pepper Sprays	R2 564,00	R2 492,00	R72,00

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Here I will cover what was budgeted for and the adjustments thereof during the many changes that have happened during the term as explained above.

1. Cyberbullying and Law Webinar Talk as part of the Equality Unit's Anti-Cyberbullying Campaign. 3 x R100 Takealot vouchers were purchased and emailed to the 3 students who interacted the most during the webinar.
2. Alcohol and Substance Abuse Mental Health Talk by CSCD. Date yet to be confirmed. 4 x R100 Takealot vouchers were purchased and wait for the talk to happen and 4 students that will participate the most and engage during the talk will receive these vouchers.

Self-Defence Demonstration has been in the pipeline since February and has been delayed by strict COVID-19 bureaucracy and I had planned for it to happen in the week of the 23rd of August and it also unfortunately could not happen virtually. Pepper sprays to the value of R2564.00 (total of 28 pepper sprays purchased from Takealot) and 4 Takealot vouchers (in the banner of the Safety on Campus Forum that focussed on the safety of students with special needs) were purchased and just need to be distributed to the already identified students who participated in the Disability Indaba.

Recommendations to improve portfolio

- Have COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 plans on implementing the ANTI-GBV memorandum and the DHET GBV policies and SU Unfair Discrimination policy for the plans mentioned below
- Subcommittee with a diverse team of Tygerberg and Stellenbosch Campus Students
- Use of the srccsafety@sun.ac.za personalised email address
- Instagram page for the portfolio to communicate with students
- Continue first aid training for safety HK and extend this to the student union
- Hold monthly self defence classes for Tygerberg and Stellenbosch campus students
- Continue the Safety Awareness training offered by Campus Security to Newcomers during the Welcoming period
- Tackle GBV monthly in partnership with the TSR, SRC Special needs, Prim Committee and Senior Prim Committee, Equality unit, Student Affairs, SAPS and local neighbourhood watch
- Hold safety awareness talks/demonstrations with SAPS, local neighbourhood watch and the Fire Department
- Have a Zero-tolerance to GBV/War on GBV campaign similar to the COVID-19 campaign in having the SRC and TSR colleagues on posters on the street poles, Student centres, computer areas etc. of Stellenbosch and Tygerberg campus
- Work with the Safety and security portfolio holders in the neighbouring Cape Town universities and SAUS in order to share and gain knowledge in ensuring safe campuses and tackling GBV

Important Contacts

Campus Security

Mr Brandon Como: como@sun.ac.za

Ms Melony Le Roux: melany@sun.ac.za

Neelsie Management

Mr Gary Howell: ghowell@sun.ac.za

Transport services (Issues regarding the Stellenbosch campus shuttle)

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