



Stellenbosch

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SRC

Students' Representative Council
Ibhunga elimele abaFundi
Studenteraad



SRC 2024 TERM 2 REPORT
SRC TRANSFORMATION OFFICER

Students' Representative Council

Third Floor, Neelsie Student Centre

Private Bag XI, Matieland, 7602

Tel: +27 21 808 2757 | Email: sr@sun.ac.za

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**SRC Transformation
Officer**

– 23547375@sun.ac.za

Foreword

Welcome back, esteemed students, to the vibrant halls and verdant grounds of Stellenbosch University as we embark upon the second term of 2024. As members of the Student Representative Council (SRC), we are privileged to address you, our esteemed peers, with a message of encouragement, unity, and purpose.

At Stellenbosch University, we cherish a tradition of excellence that extends beyond the realms of academia to encompass the holistic development of each student. As we return to our studies, let us reaffirm our commitment to academic rigor, intellectual curiosity, and the pursuit of knowledge that defines our institution.

Compassion lies at the heart of our community, guiding us in our interactions with one another and inspiring acts of kindness and empathy. Let us support and uplift one another, recognizing that our collective strength lies in our unity and solidarity.

Accountability serves as the cornerstone of our values, reminding us of our responsibility to ourselves, our peers, and our broader society. Let us strive for integrity and honesty in all our endeavors, holding ourselves to the highest ethical standards.

Respect is the bedrock upon which our diverse community thrives, fostering an environment of inclusivity, understanding, and appreciation for the myriad perspectives that enrich our campus. Let us embrace diversity as a source of strength, celebrating the unique contributions of each individual.

Equity is our guiding principle, driving us to dismantle barriers to access and opportunity, and to create a campus culture that is truly equitable and just for all. Let us work together to foster a community where every student can thrive, regardless of background or circumstance.

As we embark upon this new term, let us embody these values of excellence, compassion, accountability, respect, and equity in all that we do, knowing that by doing so, we honor the legacy of Stellenbosch University and pave the way for a brighter, and inclusive future.

Yours in Availability

Bradley Grovers

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Students' Representative Council
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Constitutional Responsibilities

According to the student constitution by constitutional responsibilities are the following:

- 1) Transformation does not have any specific constitutional responsibilities outside of those stated in the
- 2) SU Student Constitution for the SRC in its entirety. Chapter 3(1) to act in the best interest of the
- 3) students and to actively promote students' rights under (11); (2) to represent students at – (a) the
- 4) University Council; (b) the Senate; (c) the Institutional Forum; (d) other committees, bodies and
- 5) functionaries of the University; and € national and international student bodies; (3) to evaluate the
- 6) university policy and give input in the formulation thereof; (4) to consider the advice of Student
- 7) Parliament; (5) facilitate projects and initiatives to the benefit of students; (6) to facilitate projects and
- 8) initiatives to the benefit of students; and (7) to formulate and maintain policy in order to ensure that the
- 9) Student Representative Council perform its functions and duties effectively.

Portfolio Overview

SRC Transformation's role is to create a diverse student experience that will best promote human dignity and justice. A welcoming campus that values the rights of everyone and appreciates the differences that exist amongst human beings is the greatest success of transformation. The portfolio offers the institution and the student body a greater understanding of justice. It is through it that discrimination is intolerable within the academic spaces. The portfolio advocates for equity for everyone. It offers persons an opportunity to be treated as human beings without fear. The Transformation Officer has a duty to represent all students on campus. It strives towards providing a student experience that is welcoming to everyone without discriminating. We are shaped by the environments that we originate from as students. It is therefore the responsibility of the Transformation Officer to bridge the gap by providing a global experience that will not violate the rights of others based on their language, gender, religion

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social class, and political affiliation. The goal is to create an environment that will offer students an opportunity to learn from one and another through embracing multiculturalism. Human dignity and justice guide the transformation agenda.

Committees/Task Teams

I serve on the following Committees and or Task Teams:

1. Transformation and Critical Engagement Forum

This forum equips House Committees with all the necessary tools so as to welcome a student in a way where all students feel welcomed and valued in our institution. This is done through Res-Ed and critical engagements to ensure we equip our students with the environment of Stellenbosch University, and how we can best be champions of transformation.

2. Student Institutional Transformation Committee

This committee is chaired by the Transformation Officer, in this instance, Bradley Grovers, and the purpose of this committee is to bring student leaders together, and create a platform of developing and enhancing transformation in our institution.

3. Institutional Forum (Executive)

The duties of this committee entail, planning the agenda for IF meetings; Logistics and the secretariat; Planning and organising an annual planning session either after the last official meeting of the year, or early in the new year. Liaison with Management; Annual liaison with the Exco (C); Finalising urgent matters in highly exceptional cases that cannot be held over until the next full IF meeting, and reporting in detail to the IF; and such other functions as the IF may delegate to the Exco (IF).

The IF (Exco) was suppose- to meet with management on the 3rd of April 2024, however this meeting was cancelled due to the forum not meeting quorum. The reason for this is that the IF is currently in the process of nominating and electing a new Chairperson for the Committee. The next meeting with the IF will only take place in May.

4. Institutional Forum

As per the SU Statute, the Institutional Forum (IF) advises the Council on various issues, including policies, conduct, and management policies. The IF comprises 23 representatives from multiple sectors, including governance and management, staff, students, and the community.

This Committee is yet to meet in May.

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5. Institutional Transformation Committee

The Institutional Transformation Committee (ITC) is a committee mandated by, and reporting to, the Rector's Management Team (RMT) on matters relating to transformation at our University. The ITC's

role is to:

- Advance the implementation of the transformation imperatives provided by the Strategic

Framework;

- Participate in drafting and regularly revising the SU Transformation plan;

- Participate in drafting key performance areas and strategic management indicators for

transformation;

- Monitor and report progress on realising our university's transformation imperatives; and

- advise the Transformation Office, the Senior Director: Social Impact and Transformation, the

Vice-Rector: Social Impact, Transformation & Personnel and the RMT on transformation

matters.

The ITC had its third sitting for the year on 24 March 2024, where a member of Rectorate was invited to discuss the Transformative Plan for Academic Reformation and its policies within the Institution, and the possible resolutions/recommendations needed to create a holistic campus experience in terms of academic excellence.

6. Student Achievements Committee

This committee is formed to reward students for significant achievements such as the rector's awards. The Student Achievement Committee is chaired by the Vice Rector (Learning & Teaching). The Senior Director: Student Affairs, Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the SRC, the SRC member responsible for the Rector's Award for Excellent Achievement and the Senior Director: Communication and Liaison form the core committee with the Chairperson.

As mentioned in my first term report, this Committee is yet to meet for its first sitting.

7. Honorary Degrees Committee

This committee aims to recognise those individuals that have been actively contributing to the promotion of SU's pursuit in excellence, compassion, accountability, respect, equity and inclusivity. This Committee consists of members of rectorate who receive advice from the Nominations Committee before a final decision is made.

This Committee is yet to sit for its first meeting

Term 2 Overview

1. During my second term in office, I have launched the #BeYou Initiative in collaboration with Dr. Ronel Retief, the Registrar of Stellenbosch University, and the subcommittee of the Woman and Queer Empowerment Portfolio within the SRC. – The aim of this initiative was initially started by the former transformation officer, and former chairperson of the SRC 21/22, Viwe Kobokana. It is crucial that this initiative continues to ensure that students who identify as part of the LGBTQA+ community have a safe space where they can freely be themselves. This project aims to be a continuous initiative that would benefit all members of the LGBTQ+ community. The project will close for submission on the 17th of May 2024.
2. I had the opportunity to establish a subcommittee for the Transformation portfolio, who will assist and play a crucial part in ensuring that events within the portfolio are fully executed, be it planning, financial responsibilities or administration. The subcommittee will ensure that we create events that speak to the student voice, and prioritise the student voice when having panel discussions.
3. The SRC were invited to attend the Second Institutional Welcoming which took place at the Coetzenburg Centre on 9 March 2024. We had the opportunity to be part of the procession in welcoming all late-newcomers and first-time post-graduate students to Stellenbosch University.
4. As part of the 30th celebration of Transformation at Stellenbosch, and Stellenbosch Museum, the SRC got invited to partake in choosing painting that speaks to them, as to how far the university has come in terms of Transformation. Those selected members had to write a curatorial statement on the representation of their painting so that their work could be exhibited as part of this celebration.
5. In celebration of the 15th social justice talk hosted by the Centre for Social Justice under the chairpersonship of Prof. Thuli Madonsela, we had the honour of being invited to go on a hike in pursuit of raising funds for Bridge the Gap and the social justice fund.
6. The SRC together with Rectorate and DSAF had its annual SRC and Rectorate photoshoot on 28 March 2024 at the Council Chambers in Admin B.

Plans for Next Term

I plan on doing the following –

1. 7. As part of my portfolio events I have an event coming up on April 17th at the Victoria Hub. This event will be a panel discussion on “Unveiling the journey of Transformation at Stellenbosch University: Navigating the Path to True Freedom, Social Justice and Equality, in collaborating with AVREQ. This event aims to invite students who would want to express their personal lived experiences at the institution.
2. I also aim to host an event before the 2024 National Elections in collaboration with the Centre for Democracy and Research at Stellenbosch University. The event aims to discuss “Empowerment through Transformation: Shaping Our Future, Shaping Our Nation”.