

UNIVERSITY IYUNIVESITHI UNIVERSITEIT

#### SRC

Students' Representative Council Ibhunga elimele abaFundi Studenteraad

# SRC 2024 TERM 2 REPORT

# SRC INTERNATIONAL MANAGER- NATASHA SIBANDA





Students' Representative Council

Third Floor, Neelsie Student Centre

Private Bag XI, Matieland, 7602

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



# Table of Contents

| Constitutional Responsibilities | . 3 |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Portfolio Overview              | . 4 |
| Committees/Task Teams           |     |
| Term I Overview                 |     |
| Plans for Next Term             |     |



# Natasha Sibanda SRC International Manager 23880945@sun.ac.za

#### Foreword

Hello fellow Maties,

It was quite a hectic first term of 2024. I hope you all were able to get into the swing of your academics. With those of you who may be struggling, it is alright- we have all been there and are here to support you. Especially to any first years, new postgraduate students whether international or local, please let use know where we can help you. Being in a new environment can be daunting and we do not want you to suffer in silence. The Centre for Student Counselling Division can also assist with any academic of personal counselling.

If you have not joined societies or sports please do- it is a great way to de-stress, socialize and have the full university experience. All the best with the second term Maties!

# Constitutional Responsibilities

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

As the SRC international portfolio holder, my constitutional responsibilities can be split between the duties imposed on me as an SRC member and my portfolio specific duties.

As an SRC Member, sections 27 and 32 impose the prevalent duties. Accordingly, I must always act in the best interest of students and to actively promote their constitutionally provided rights. Other specific duties include to represent students on institutional committees. Section 32 further obligates me to submit a termly report of all my activities during the academic term to the Secretary. Finally, according to section 44 I have to attend an SRC meeting every two weeks during the academic term.



## Portfolio Overview

The role of the SU International portfolio head is to Ensure accessibility of information and documentation related to being an International Student. We are point of contact for all concerns raised by international students and liaise with the International Office for matters. Our role is to facilitate projects to increase the wellbeing of International Students on campuses, as well as to facilitate engagement between various International Students. We ensure equality of offerings for all international students and promote pride of identities for international students.

The holder of the SRC international portfolio is to prioritise all students, with further consideration being given to international students, in decision making. This entails finding ways to ease the lives of students including providing easier access to relevant documents and increasing the collaboration between international students.

## Committees/Task Teams

I serve on the following Committees and or Task Teams:

IACI: Institutional Advisory Committee On Internationalisation: A representative committee on internationalisation from across the faculties and support environments. This past term we have been discussing how to make study abroad opportunities more accessible for full time international students.

Amani: The International Student's Board. Amani represents all full-time international students at Stellenbosch with a core focus of realizing SU's ambitions for internationalization at home through integration and representation. We had a meeting at Tygerberg to discuss our calendars for the year and how to support one another. We have also been trying to make a sports team for international students (male football and rugby team as well as female hockey, netball/ volleyball). This is currently in the final stages as we would like to collaborate with Concordia Residence.

## Term 2 Overview

My second term was more of an observation term as I did not know exactly what SUI (an International Office) offered in terms of events and services. This term was quite eventful for SUI, so I decided to assist with spreading the awareness of the events below. Unfortunately, I have struggled to reach majority of International students as I cannot be given students email address due to the POPIA. Which has made my role difficult, as events which are organised most students are not aware about.

Some events that you can look for are:

They first had orientation week for exchange students, this was the week before classes commenced on Monday 12 February 2024. We were also available to assist international students who came late in the SUI office for the first month of the term.

SIAN week started a month into the term. It is a week for international universities to engage with SU. It started with a Legacy Symposium on Sunday 10 March 2024. We hosted 100 international visitors from 69 universities. On Wednesday 13 March 2024 we held the International food evening at Academia hall and on Thursday 14 March there was the Study Abroad Fair in Jan Mouton- with 20 universities participating. This week was impactful and very fruitful.

During Recess (4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> of April) some exchange students from VUC-Storstrom in Denmark came to Stellenbosch for their exchange programme. Some SRC members helped with the programme for them to experience SU. Also during recess, some Zambian students went to Hidden Valley Wine Estate for some wine tasting- which they thoroughly enjoyed.

## Plans for Next Term

I plan on integrating international students to the ISOS programme, as it is currently only for exchange students. I hope to include African International Students in their programme or have a separate one for them. As well as having an orientational week for all international students.

I would like to host an event for locals and international students this term.

### **Budget Line**

My budget went down to R27384. I assisted with a quantum for the Zambian wine excursion which was R1425.