



**Stellenbosch**

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Students' Representative Council  
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Studenteraad



## SRC 2024 TERM II REPORT

SPC CHAIRPERSON

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**Senior Prim Committee  
Chairperson—  
[23119349@sun.ac.za](mailto:23119349@sun.ac.za)**

## Foreword

Sanibonani Maties!

*“Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other” – John F. Kennedy.*

Since being elected as the Senior Prim Committee, I have been learning and adapting to this new role, which has continuously had a great impact in expanding my knowledge and understanding, to become a better leader for this structure.

With the continual learning I have been able to identify and see the gaps and where the structure can improve for the better, not just improving the structure its self but for it to serve the student body much better.

My journey in leadership hasn't been the easiest, prior to being elected as the Senior Prim Committee Chairperson, I had a couple of disappointments, but I am thankful to myself that I never gave up but continued to pursuing leadership. I am also grateful for the leadership teams I served on prior to this one, I had the privilege of being the Vice Prim at Concordia and the Vice Chairperson of the Senior Prim Committee.

Lastly I would like to thank everyone who participated during the election season and thank you for trusting me for this role.

As John F. Kennedy's quote, I would continue to learn and be willing to be taught, in order to become the student leader that everyone will appreciate.

## Constitutional Responsibilities

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

- The Senior Prim Committee has a constitutional mandate to:
  - 1) Actively promote the rights of students contained in CHAPTER 2, and specifically the right, under s8(1), to an enabling campus environment in which student success and academic excellence are encouraged and pursued.
  - 2) Serve as a forum of House Committee leaders that strives to protect and further the interests of all students, by advising the SRC via the Senior Prim Committee chairperson.\
- Duties and powers
  - 1) The Senior Prim Committee represents the interests of the residents of senior residences, in that capacity, at the SRC via the presence of the Senior Prim Committee Chairperson on the SRC serving as an ex-officio member and the University management.
  - 2) The Senior Prim Committee is an autonomous student representational structure and has the powers necessary for the performance of its duties.
  - 3) Decisions of the Senior Prim Committee are binding on all House Committees of Houses that form part of the Senior Prim Committee.

According to the Senior Prim Constitution, the Chairperson has the following constitutional responsibilities:

- The Chairperson is an ex-officio member of the SRC, and their term will be concurrent to that of the SRC.
- The Chairperson holds the highest authority on the SPC.
- The Chairperson represents the SPC on various bodies as determined at the SPC meetings and by other student bodies.
- Is accountable to members to ensure that the Executive execute the duties of their portfolio(s).
- Is accountable to ensure that decisions taken at the SPC meetings are implemented effectively and timeously.
- Represents the committee in any and all negotiations with the SRC and other University bodies.

- Ensures that the committee complies with the regulations of the SRC and will compile a year-end report for submission to the SRC as per their regulations.

## Portfolio Overview

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- 1) The Senior Prim Committee consists of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, and the Prim, or their nominee, of each senior residence, as well as any other members that are provided for in the constitution of the Senior Prim Committee.
- 2) Other members provided for in the SPC constitution are the Senior Living Spaces (SLS) cluster convenors and the .Net structures for senior students residing outside of residences – Rubix.net, amaMaties.net and Wimbledon.Net. These specifically targets new senior or postgraduate/postdoc students that are not in SU senior residence.
- 3) The Senior Prim Committee Chairperson at Stellenbosch University oversees representing and promoting the interests, needs, and rights of all students residing in senior housing. This is achieved by meeting often to discuss and solve important concerns encountered by the students we represent to realize our objective. Additionally, we start joint initiatives that benefit our constituency, promoting cooperation between other residences and towns nearby as well as with the Senior Living Spaces Cluster. Through the chairperson, the Senior Prim Committee is also represented at the SRC. This makes sure that senior students' views are reflected in this forum and that the effects of all SRC decisions on senior students have been considered. The SRC also keeps up with what's happening in senior housing, and vice versa.

## Committees/Task Teams

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*In my capacity as SPC Chairperson:*

### **Student Community Advisory Committee:**

- The SCAC, previously named the 'Student Housing Committee', serves as a platform where any matters concerning student communities are discussed.
- This committee chiefly oversees physical developmental affairs of student housing on campus.
- Ensure that University infrastructure enables holistic integration and coordination of all student related housing, cluster, and hub activities.

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- It is chaired by the Vice Rector of Teaching and Learning and is further comprised of the SPC Chair, PC Chair and Vice-Chair, the Directors of Project Management, CSLL, the Placement Office, as well as the Senior Directors of SU International, SunCom, Student Affairs and Student Access.
- On the

### **SPC Constitution Review Committee:**

- Chaired by the SPC Chairperson.
- This committee reviews all constitutions of the communities represented in the SPC.
- Must review the SPC Constitutions every three years.

## **Term II Overview**

Returned to campus on the 17 of January 2024, In preparation for the welcoming/ registration week. All SRC members were required to be on campus before the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January 2024.

### **WELCOMING 2024:**

- Senior/postgraduate students don't have an intense welcoming period, compared to the junior/undergraduate students welcoming period, therefore I didn't have to be fully hands on with welcoming because welcoming for seniors and postgraduate students was fully handled by the SLS cluster conveners and the .Nets Leaders. I then spent most of the time assisting as SRC ex-officio during the registration campaign.
- **SRC Welcoming/Registration Campaign:**  
For the duration of the welcoming/ registration campaign, I was available to assist at the SRC offices and with the registration campaign. Every member had to choose a role they wanted, I chose to be Office Manager, I was therefore in charge of always ensuring that during office hours there is someone at the front/reception desk and there was order at the office.  
Although I was not limited to just Office Manager, as every member had to be present at least at each station, Admin A, Office or General, General being available for any station or wherever the SRC present was required.  
I was then mostly involved at the Office or Admin A for the whole duration of the registration campaign.
- **SLS/.Nets Welcoming:**  
Whenever I could be available, I availed myself and showed up for the programs or activities planned. This included check-ins, where I would check in on the Senior Leadership Structures leaders.  
Recommendations:  
The one big concern during this period was the fact that senior leadership still feels excluded from the welcoming program. The prims and .Net exec leaders raise concerns about the treatment given to seniors by the university, this stems from the exclusionary treatment given to them during

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the Rectors welcoming. I also felt that I was exclude considering the fact the SPC was not invited to the Rectors welcoming like all other leadership structures, but we are also a student communities leadership structure that was formed by the university and said to be taken care of by the university.

I therefore recommend that ensure that involvement in the planning of the welcoming, especially Rectors welcoming.

- **Accommodation crisis:**

A crisis regarding accommodation occurred on campus, which stemmed from the NSFAS Cap, therefore mores students want to stay on campus residence. Every accommodation space, being full, on campus or private accommodation. The SRC engaged with NSFAS to address issues regarding capped accommodation allowances, slow funding application processing, food insecurity in residences and delayed NSFAS funding lists. A feedback mass meeting on this was held at the Rooiplein, relevant SRC members' reports should provide more information. This crisis went on for about 3 weeks after classes already commenced and still has been fully resolved.

## **MATIES HAVE DRIVE**

- I held a meeting with Noel, to discuss the way forward when comes to this initiative and looking at ways to make more sustainable, because it is a very costly initiative. In this meeting I mentioned that I still need to engage with all other stakeholders and hear their thoughts. The plan was for the initiative to kick start by March but unfortunately that didn't happen largely because of the accommodation crisis on campus, therefore there was no time to fully focus on it and the bigger issue was Tygerberg students had not finished the 2023 phase because of some issues with the service provide deciding to stop giving lesson.

As the chairperson and the initiative is headed by the SPC I held a meeting with a representative from Tygerberg to get all the details and find a way forward.

## **SPC CONSTITUTION**

- The SPC constitution was long overdue for review and because I sit on the constitutional review committee, we had already commenced with the review and writing of the constitution, and already commenced with review all the SLS constitutions.

## **SCAC Meetings**

- As part of my duties as the chairperson I attend the second SCAC meeting. In meeting where we received a comprehensive report from the facilities management team regarding the ongoing upgrades and maintenance activities in various residences. During the meeting, the committee received feedback on the construction progress of two new residences near Goldfields, which were scheduled to be open by March but construction not complete therefore open date is indefinite.

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## Plans for Next Term

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Unfortunately, I had to resign.

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