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Students' Representative Council Ibhunga elimele abaFundi Studenteraad



SRC 2024 TERM 2 REPORT

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Ongezwa Qiqa Tshazi-SRC Treasurer-General

Foreword

Dear Maties.

I trust that this reports finds you well. I hope that by now you are adjusting well into the year, and gaining some positive momentum on your acadedic journeys.

First, I would like to honour you all for your support of our team. Thank you for the faith in our structure, and for granting us the platform to serve with you.

Second, thank you for taking the time to read through this document. I trust that it shall provide enough glimse into some of the activities of an SRC treasurer this past term, and some things to look forward to in the upcoming terms.

Enjoy!

Constitutional Responsibilities

CHAPTER 4, Section 28 (4) of the Student Constitution provides a broad description of the duties and responsibilities of the SRC Treasurer-General. However, the daily functional duties are not explicitly detailed. Below is an overview of the duties of the SRC Treasurer-General as indicated in the <u>Stellenbosch University Student Constitution</u>

(4) The Treasurer -

- (a) Is responsible for ensuring that the financial resources of the SRC are used in a transparent, responsible, and sustainable manner.
- (b) Is responsible for formulating policies that ensure the transparent, responsible, and sustainable use of the SRC's financial resources, and ensuring the implementation of such policies after they are approved by the SRC.
- (c) Is responsible for preparing the draft SRC budget for consideration by the SRC Executive Committee.
- (d) Is responsible for providing a financial report at the end of their term.

Portfolio Overview

- 1) Although the SRC Treasurer-General has responsibilities stipulated on the student Constitution, the portfolio in itself is complex. For instance, the SRC Treasurer-General drafts, compiles and upkeeps the SRC budget, however, the final approval and amendments are conducted by the entire SRC Executive Committee.
- 2) Furthermore, the SRC Treasurer-General has a responsibility to ensure that there is transparency and sustainable use of the SRC financial resources.
- 3) Thus, among other things, the SRC treasurer assists all the different portfolios within the SRC with advising on expenditures, and processing transactions, updating SRC internal financial policies, should the need arise, and adhering to the University's financial policies. Therefore, ensuring that all transactions and financial manoeuvres are within the scope of what can be considered as legitimate, institutionally.
- 4) Additionally, besides the official term reports, the SRC Treasurer has a responsibility to conduct regular reports on any financial matters concerning the SRC, with the SRC team and Student Governance, if necessary.

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Committees/Task Teams

I serve on the following Committees and or Task Teams:

SRC Executive Committee

The SRC Executive Committee is sanctioned by section 40 of the Stellenbosch University

Student Constitution. I serve on the Executive Committee by virtue of being the Treasurer-

General of the SRC. Additional duties of the SRC Executive Committee are stipulated in

section 41 of the Stellenbosch University Student Constitution, however, the most important

role is to administer and manage the day-to-day events concerning the SRC.

The SRC Executive Committee also engages in exclusive activities such as, the appointment

of SRC managers, meetings with Student Governance, Division of Student Affairs, and the

Stellenbosch University Rectorate.

During term 2, the SRC Executive engaged on various activities, most of which were centred

around addressing student issues, being involved in the processes of the March graduation

season, and the celebrations around it.

SUNCOM Advisory committee

SUNCOM is the commercial services division at the Stellenbosch University. I sit on the

committee as an SRC and student community representative. An introductory meeting was

held during fourth term of 2023. Two more meetings were set to happen this year, one in

March of 2024. However, there have not been any developments in that regard, thus, I cannot

provide any feedback yet.

NSFAS Contingency task team

The NSFAS Contingency task team was established on an urgent basis by the Rectorate in

February 2023. The role and purpose of this Committee was, initially, to look at the National

Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) CAP on Residence allowances, which was of R45

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000,00 introduced in the beginning of 2023. In the previous term, the committee engaged on conversations on all matters relating to NSFAS and the institution, formulating recommendations on how the scheme can be tailored better for the NSFAS student population at Stellenbosch University. The committee has not held a meeting yet in the second term.

Term 2 Overview

The SRC term in office commenced in fourth term of 2023. However, some delays brought

along complexities in fully adjusting to our roles as a team. Term 1, I would argue was a time

of figuring out how to settle well into the structure, and our duties, and finding the synergy in

how we work as a team. Another crucial element for the past term was ensuring that the

registration period ran as smoothly as it could. As such, when it came to the utilisation of SRC

funds, a large sum was spent on ensuring that everyone who was involved in the registration

processes was well-catered for.

The main 'set back' during the early stages of term 1 was fully adjusting to the new financial

system (SUNFin), and gaining full access and authorisation to Tera Term, which is used for

reimbursements and transport booking. A positive note for term 2 is that the budget was

finally approved, and the funds transferred to the respective portfolio cost centres. Therefore,

reimbursements that were pending could be processed, and the team could utilise the

budgeted amounts for events and ad hoc payments for their respective portfolios.

From the budgeted amount, a total of R699 949,50 was transferred to the various portfolio

cost centres, except for the Research and Data portfolio, whose cost centre still had to be

applied for. A few portfolios organised events in term 2, however, there has not been much

expenditure yet. A more comprehensive expenditure chart will be provided in the upcoming

term.

In addition, the SRC received a donation of R800 000 from the Motsepe Foundation. A

consensus was reached to donate the funds towards student debt.

Plans for Next Term

My plan for the next term remains the same as last term; ensuring that the SRC financial

bookkeeping is always up to date. I plan also to continue briefing the team on expenditure,

how much they have utilised and how much is left to spend. Furthermore, the President of

the Stellenbosch SRC and myself are working on establishing a fundraising subcommittee.

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The aim is to establish a committee that will operate every year to raise funds for the upcoming SRC team. The plan for the year is to organise a fundraising Gala dinner before the 2023/2024 SRC term ends. More details will be communicated once a solid implementation strategy is in place.

Should you have any enquiries regarding the portfolio, you are welcome to email srctreasurer@sun.ac.za.

-Have a wonderful term-