



STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL
IBHUNGA ELIMELE ABAFUNDI
STUDENTERAAD



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SRC 2021/22 TERM REPORT 3 TRANSFORMATION

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Students' Representative Council
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Table of Contents

Constitutional Responsibilities	2
Portfolio Overview	2
Committees/Task Teams	2
Term Overview	2
Term I Financial report	2
Plans for next term	2
Recommendations to improve portfolio	2



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Constitutional Responsibilities

Transformation does not have specific constitutional responsibilities outside of those stated in the SU Student Constitution for the SRC in its entirety. Chapter 4 27(1) to act in the best interest of students and to actively promote students' rights under Chapter 2; (2) to represent students at – (a) the University Council; (b) the Senate; (c) the Institutional Forum; (d) other committees, bodies and functionaries of the University; and (e) national and international student bodies; (3) to evaluate the University policy and give input in the formulation thereof; (4) To formulate and maintain policy to ensure that the SRC performs its functions and duties effectively; (5) facilitate projects and initiatives to the benefit of students; (6) To inform students continuously, and obtain feedback, about its activities.. The Transformation Officer also acts as the owner of the Transformation Policy.

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Portfolio Overview

The role of SRC Transformation is to work to further transformation that favours students both institutionally, as well as socially. This pursuit of transformation should be intersectional, and should account for the diverse students who make up the student body of Stellenbosch University. The pursuit of transformation should also be in furtherance of the mandates of the 2021/2022 SRC, and should aim to ensure an educational approach that works in pursuit of positive knowledge. It should be an accessible process that enables and encourages students to be the driving force of the transformative process. And the pursuit of transformation should take into account the holistic wellness of the individual and the community locally, nationally, and internationally.

The Transformation Officer has a responsibility to ensure that the gap that separates students is closed, in order to ensure that students can engage with each other on fair and equitable grounds. The Transformation Portfolio should in addition work towards transforming Stellenbosch University into a just, equitable, diverse, and inclusive institution.

Committees/Task Teams

- Transformation and Critical Engagement Forum – Head
- Student Institutional Transformation Committee – Chairperson
- Transportation Workstream – Chairperson
- Institutional Forum
- Transformation Office Monitoring and Evaluation Task Team
- Siyakhule Capacity Development Project – Project Coordinator
- Rector's Award Advisory Task Team
- DSAf Transformation Forum - member

Term Overview

Rector's Award Task Team

The final regulations for the Rector's Awards were submitted to Prof Deresh Ramjugernath for final approval. Pending this, the work of the task team has officially concluded, and nominations for the awards will open next semester under the new regulations should they be accepted.



Student Institutional Transformation Committee – Chairperson

The Student Institutional Transformation Committee (SITC) was reconstituted as a new body with a different makeup of representatives from relevant student sectors. Following its reconstitution, the main focus of the SITC during the second academic term was determining the vision and mission of the body. Additionally, the SITC held meetings to discuss the planning of the Student Institutional Transformation Indaba. The indaba is planned for the first two weeks of October, and the theme of the indaba will focus youth activism and structural transformation.

Siyakuhle Capacity Development Project

The Siyakuhle Capacity Development Project has come to a hold. Currently, the plans established for the project are still standing, but it seems that the project will only go forward next year.

Pride

DSAf has agreed to purchase pride flags for communities and faculties interested in receiving one. We also placed an order for 100 pride shirts which we intend to give out during pride events. There was a delay in the order for the shirts being processed because we initially started the order with Brandability, only to find out near the end stages that regulations were recently changed which would mean that we would have to make use of Matie Shop.

We had planned to host pride events during the second academic term, but after speaking to students, we decided to split pride celebrations between the second and third terms. I organized a picnic for the week of the 16th of May, but due to events at Huis Marais the picnic was postponed to the third term. We also planned to have a mixer, which will also be moved to the third term.

The Gender, Sex, and Sexuality discussion will instead focus on the intersection of queer identity with other identities, and how people's intersectional identities benefits and disadvantages them. This discussion is also set to take place during the third term.

The last pride event that we have planned for is the Pride Walk which will see us walk to the various faculties to hand over the pride flags to the faculties. Planning for the march has been finalized, and the march will take place as soon as the flags and shirts arrive.

Huis Marais and Crisis Management

In the week of the 16th of May news broke of a racist incident in Huis Marais. A first year student urinated on the belongings of another Black first year student. Following this incident, students mobilized protest action to demand an appropriate response. During this week, I tried to attend all protest actions planned by students. I also reached out to the victim as soon as the news broke to offer support, and to help them to report the case to the Equality Unit for investigation.



During the week, various committees also had emergency meetings to discuss what had happened and what the response of the institution should be. In these meetings I stressed the following issues:

- The Res-Ed sessions needs to be reworked in order to become more effective. Currently the program doesn't help students to adjust to university life, nor does the program adequately help to transform the individual.
 - A monitoring program should also be developed that can measure the progress that students make while attending res-ed sessions. These sessions should also be held throughout the year, and should start out as basic sessions that gradually become more complex as the understanding of the students develop.
- More stringent rules should be established for hiring and managing residence heads. Residence heads are underutilized and oft forgotten agents of transformation that can contribute greatly to the culture of a residence space
 - More PSO coordinators should also be appointed in order to help assist PSO leadership to tackle issues of racism, ablism, and queerphobia that may arise in their communities.
- The training given to student leaders, specifically student leaders in residence and PSO spaces needs a near complete overhaul. These trainings are not effective in empowering student leaders to respond to crisis events, nor do these trainings help to orientate student leaders as to how to navigate the university's structures. These trainings also fail to develop the critical capacity of leaders, and new training needs to be developed to address these issues.

Budget Usage

The Transformation Portfolio did not spend any of its own budgeted reserves, but it did spend R36 000 as planned for, for the hiring of vehicles for the Transportation Workstream

<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount budgeted</u>	<u>Amount utilised</u>	<u>Amount available</u>
Pride Shirts	R10 000	R9 500	R500
Lolly Pops	R0	R300	R0



Plans for next term

Pride Week

All of the planning for Pride is in place, and next term planning will be executed once students have returned to campus.

Student Collaborations

The portfolio will engage with leaders who have events and initiatives planned but who may need help to finalise their plans and projects. The transformation portfolio will try to collaborate with these students in order to increase integration into the student community, and visibility of the Transformation Portfolio.

Policy Work

The transformation committee will work on an ad-hoc basis to develop some policy solutions to the challenges and barriers to transformation. This work is intended to be handed over along with the handover report to the successor of the transformation portfolio to give them an idea of where they can start working on policy changes that would further transformation at Stellenbosch University.

Student Transformation Indaba

The SITC will meet to finalize the planning of the Student Transformation Indaba, the theme and topics of discussion for the indaba, as well as the venue and guests. This event will hopefully serve to also reintroduce the SITC to the student body and student leaders as a valuable organ to advance the mission of transformation.