



**Stellenbosch**

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**SRC**

Students' Representative Council  
Ibhunga elimele abafundi  
Studenteraad



## SRC TERM I REPORT

SRC International – Dylan Schmidt



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*saam vorentoe · masiye phambili · forward together*

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**Dylan Schmidt – SRC  
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## Foreword

Hey Maties!

I would firstly like to thank everyone who supported the SRC election campaign and trusted me with your vote. This first term has been an exciting one, getting to know all sorts of people on a range of levels, faculties and departments within the university.

This term I was privileged enough to represent the university at the USSA Council meeting in Durban, and hope to be able to have more incredible opportunities like this.

Having initially taken up both international and sports portfolios as well as being on the SRC Executive, I have now decided to allow someone else to take up the sports portfolio in order for it to be run with the attention it deserves.

This upcoming term guarantees, and already has been a very busy time, but with a number of exciting events and times ahead I am sure that the team will push through.

## Constitutional Responsibilities

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According to the student constitution my 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, a member of the SRC Executive Committee 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.

As an Executive Committee member, section 41 and 42 imposes additional obligations. This includes setting the agenda for SRC meetings, managing the day-to-day activities of the SRC, compiling the SRC budget and deciding on portfolio allocations. Finally, I am required to attend weekly meetings.

## Portfolio Overview

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The role of the SU International portfolio head is to Ensure accessibility of information and documentation related to being an International Student. We 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

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I serve on the following Committees and or Task Teams:

**USKOF:** Stellenbosch University's Co-Curricular Support Fund (SUCSF/USKOF) is administered by the Division Student Affairs and is a student bursary fund for national, international, and online co-curricular events and courses. (USKOF will next be meeting mid-February)

**Student achievement 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.

**Institutional advisory committee on internationalization:** A representative committee on internationalisation from across the faculties and support environments. This month the SASUF will collaborate with representatives from Sweden in a summit at UWC. (The next meeting will be early May)

## Term I Overview

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During my first term in office plenty was done and covered. I was a late addition to the team, being a replacement to one of the initial elected members. As an executive committee member, I have sat in a number of meetings, including with rectorate where we discussed different ways for the university to encounter the issues in Stellenbosch, where more engaging and modern social media posts were recommended. During a turbulent week we as an executive met with members of SASCO and EFFYL to bring racial issues to light and work together to avoiding the repetition of racial acts in the university. A mass meeting was held in this regard with ideas and recommendations taken up to rectorate. As an executive we arranged the SRC budget, a successful SRC camp which allowed us interaction with the military campus and participated in a number of events.

Through the international portfolio, I have worked closely with last year's SRC international portfolio member to have a smooth handover and continue projects, as well as meeting and working with members of international office staff, in order to stay up to date and advise on international students welcoming and general improvement in university experience. There has been lots of attention placed on accommodating and assisting international students throughout their registration process, with assistance given in temporary accommodation, international registration, visa difficulties and general university assistance.

## Plans for Next Term

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The upcoming term will both be challenging and rewarding. From an executive perspective, I hope to make progress with the SRC team in our current projects and to continue the positive relationships with rectorate in advising them on how to best run the university for students.

Without having to juggle both sports and international portfolios, I hope to focus more effort into the international portfolio. Throughout welcoming there are a number of events and chances to get involved, and I plan to be a key liaison between the international students and the international department.

As the international department already provides a number of events, I will place my focus on spreading awareness about events as well as help with the planning and inclusion of students. I also hope to work with the international department to include students on international opportunities to represent the university abroad, as well as strengthening relationships between various international communities within campus.