



SRC 2020/2021 Term 2 Report

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Constitutional Responsibilities

This term involved a lot of admin. I had a seamless handover from the previous manager who was very helpful and giving towards the relevant information I needed to start off my term. Thus far I have attended all the SRC meetings, and I have found that every meeting always has a significant topic related to Safety and security and what I need to do towards the relevant issue. So far, all the work done thus far has consisted of ensuring that the university is safe and accessible for all during the Welcoming Period. There have been many meetings and communication with Campus Security and Facilities Management with regards to the return of students and their safety.

Portfolio Overview

The Safety and Security portfolio aims to assist the SRC in any capacity with regards to safety on campus and to inform the SRC of any feedback obtained by the students. The portfolio remains in communication with Campus Security and Facilities management as well as the Safety VP's of Stellenbosch University Residences and PSO wards as the Stellenbosch Safety Think Tank. Relevant information will be relayed via the appropriate channels to the SRC and the students. This term I found that my responsibility goes as far as ensuring the safety of students in communal areas such as the Neelsie as well as ensuring that the Campus Shuttle service is working.

Committees / Task Teams

The Safety and Security Manager heads the Stellenbosch Safety Think Tank that allows for an open channel of communication between the SRC, Campus Security and the Safety HK from different residences and PSO wards.

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Term Overview

This term I had a successful Welcoming Period and assisted two prospective students in the Faculty of Medicine and fortunately one of these students was successful. This term echoed a Zero Tolerance to GBV and as part of the COVID-19 Safety campaign myself, Eduard and Alme managed to distribute SRC branded material promoting COVID-19 Safety and Compliance on both Stellenbosch and Tygerberg Campus. These can be seen on Stellenbosch campus street poles; the Neelsie display screen as well as display screens across both campuses.

I worked with the SRC Branding and Marketing Manager, Alme to distribute how students can use the Campus Security walk with me service on Tygerberg as well as Stellenbosch Campus and also distributed Safety Tips and emergency contacts on the SRC Social media pages as well as the Stellenbosch safety think tank.

In April, I approached 5 Stellenbosch-based companies that sell safety equipment such as pepper sprays and tasers with the request that they please offer 5-50% discounts to Stellenbosch students who purchase pepper sprays at their stores. The idea being that students have access to this vital item at a discount whenever they want to purchase it. I was unfortunately met with a negative response; however, various Safety HK were able to order pepper sprays for their residents through Astek Security and Self Defence stellenbosch@astek.co.za at R95 per individual pepper spray and got a small discount when making large orders.

In my capacity I attended two protests namely the LGBTQIA+ protest calling for JusticeForLebo and an EndGBV protest held at Parliament in Cape Town. I believe actions speak louder than words and that this should be expected from future Safety and Security Managers.

I was also approached by a company that offers self defence classes and now need to start the process of making this company a creditor so it can have a working relationship with future Safety managers. Through the Oude Molen PSO Vice-Prim, this company held a demonstration class for free for 30+ students on the 10th of May at 17:30 – 18:00 on the Coetzenburg Rugby field.

I recently also applied to be a part of the SU Unfair Discrimination and Harassment Panel of Inquiry and I'm still waiting for the outcome of my application. I believe that being a part of this committee is mandatory for SRC Safety and Security Managers in future as it will allow the SRC to be more aware of and able to answer students when it comes to dealing with GBV at SU. The Panel of Inquiry is responsible for conducting investigations after the advisors have filed official complaints and have referred the matter to an advisory panel.

The functions of a panel member include:

- Committing to being a panel member for two years
- Conducting preliminary investigations into matters of unfair discrimination and harassment which have been reported to the Equality Unit.
- Provide recommendations to SU, complainants and respondents on a way forward.
- Communicate that mediation be a strong component to conflict resolution.
- Report writing on the outcomes of the investigation.
- Provide recommendations to the Equality Unit on how to eliminate unfair discrimination, harassment, sexual harassment and GBV at SU.

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I am still saddened and currently still dealing with the sudden and tragic loss of my colleague, Nomzamo Buthelezi. May her soul continue to rest in eternal peace!

Budget

Budget & Reasoning

My proposed budget can be found in previous term reports. The goal for this year was to have a portfolio that is not big on using student finances, but rather focus on making sure that everything related to student safety is catered for. COVID-19 also made it impossible to plan for face-to-face events and I'm happy that I did not budget for big amounts unnecessarily and take away funds that could be used for the RegisterAll campaign.

Expenditure so far

Budget takes effect in the next term as can be found in my proposed budget in earlier reports.

Plans for next term

This term will be marked by aligning the implementation of my plans to assist the Action4Inclusion Campaign and promote the Mental Health of students.

This term I will implement my plans of transporting Tygerberg students to Stellenbosch campus to join Maties Taekwondo and be exposed to this sport as a sustainable method of exercise and learning self-defence skills. I will also be assisting the Equality Unit in making the Anti-Cyberbullying Campaign a success. The campaign is proposed to take place in the second semester from 26 July- 19 August 2021.

The Anti-Cyberbullying Campaign aims:

- To combat and raise awareness on cyberbullying at SU by developing a comprehensive online awareness communications campaign directed at SU students at all 3 campuses.
- To have students ask *themselves* the following questions:

“Have I been a cyberbully?”

“What does a cyberbully look like?”

- For SU students to reflect on whether they are the faces of cyberbullying.
- To look at ourselves and question whether we are guilty of cyberbullying whether direct or indirect, blatant or subtle.

Lastly, I will assist Maki Kaseke in holding two Mental Health Talks with Student Wellness. Of great importance will be assisting my fellow SRC members in their projects especially making the upcoming Action4Inclusion events a success.

Recommendations to improve portfolio

So far everything is working well with no complaints from my side. In COVID less world this portfolio would have a subcommittee but because of the high paced nature at the moment that would be futile.

Important Contacts

Campus Security

Mr Brandon Como: como@sun.ac.za

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