



# SRC 2020/2021 Term 2 Report

Precious Nhamo, Sustainability & Innovation, 22660348@sun.ac.za

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## Constitutional Responsibilities

The Sustainability & Innovation Portfolio thus far has no constitutionally prescribed responsibilities however, this portfolio is of great importance for the student body as it enables the University to cultivate a culture of full engagement in sustainability in all its entirety i.e., environmentally, economically & in terms of wellness. Stellenbosch University has made progress in its effort to create a more sustainable institution.

As stipulated in the student constitution:

6 (a) SRC managers must attend at least one Student Representative Council meeting per academic quarter in order to report back to the Student Representative Council regarding their activities.

And I have diligently fulfilled my role in such regards.

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As per my job requirements I have attended and completed all my 3hr weekly office duties, on Monday (08:00) and Tuesday (08:00-10:00).

## Portfolio Overview

The general role and function of the Sustainability and Innovation portfolio is to broaden student engagement and knowledge on issues pertaining to sustainability & innovation.

In depth, the innovation portfolio broadens, promotes and supports a culture of innovation & entrepreneurship as it drives creative thinking and advances efforts to extra economic and social value from knowledge. The sustainability portfolio broadens, promotes and support a culture of sustainable living from environment protection, income generation and overall student wellness.

## Portfolio Description

The role and function of the Sustainability and Innovation portfolio is to broaden student engagement (campus community) and knowledge on issues pertaining to sustainability & innovation. It also investigates protecting our natural environment, human and ecological health, while driving innovation and not compromising our way of life.

For the year 2021, this portfolio is responsible for creating a socio-ecologically aware and involved student body, especially regarding the sustainability principles and initiatives already undertaken by SU. Furthermore, it is responsible for the encouragement and facilitation of increased innovation and sustainable practice by the SRC, student body and University as a whole.

As a proponent for student innovation, it seeks to work with the Launch Lab to generate entrepreneurial ideas from students which are aimed at socio-ecological challenges in their respective contexts.

## Vision

In line with the SRC's vision of productivity and student success: we strive to build and operate a healthier, more innovative, and more sustainable campus community.

Our mission for the portfolio is for it to serve as a vehicle for increased student awareness and engagement on issues pertaining to sustainability, both in their university context and beyond.

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In addition, the Sustainability portfolio should foster a process whereby the University maximises on its efforts to be environmentally conscious and eco-friendly. In this case, my goal is moving towards a system of digitising submissions of student assignments as the University currently contributes to the unsustainable use of paper at a mass scale.

Also, exploring the scaling up of recycling initiatives by the University, and use of the recycled material, by encouraging more students to deposit their used notes is of concern.

Furthermore, it envisages the continuation of the support of students' innovation capabilities through collaboration with LaunchLab. Such innovation capabilities would ideally be directed at relevant challenges, in the universities or surrounding community, which the students' efforts seek to address.

## Committees / Task Teams

I have a task team of 3 students who help with coordinating volunteers there are no specific prescribed roles for each as they work on a volunteer basis.

## Term Overview

My Term 2 goals as stipulated in our 2020/21 planning documents were :

### Term Two Goals

- Increase participation in our awareness program and bringing together entrepreneurs on campus.
- Harnessing the power of collaboration through active support of our colleagues like ecomatias and UNASA

And I have undertaken the following activities/initiatives:

### Innovation & Entrepreneurship Initiatives:

- Voluntarily assists as a student engagement fellow for LaunchLab, here are some of the deliverables.
- Collaborated in 3, open hours with launch lab (unfortunately the other one costed R30 per student and it was such a short notice to mobilise funds )
- Being the key point of contact for marketing and promotional needs where the student population at SU is a target audience.
- Be the driver of other Student-focused initiatives, including but not limited to: IdeaSmash and the Entrepreneurs Week in August
- For more information subscribe to the LaunchLab newsletter via [launchlab.co.za](http://launchlab.co.za)

### Environmental Sustainability Initiative

- Stand-alone SRC beach clean up to strand with at least 22 volunteers showing up

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- Area of improvement – engage on smokers talks on campus to educate them on safe smoking and appropriate littering.
- Collaboration beach clean up with Tygerberg to Blouberg.
- Collaboration beach clean up with Minerva.
- Contributed some volunteers and equipment for the ecomaties river clean up
- Volunteering subcommittee members for the garden projects on campus -the harvest is donated to the needy.

#### Student Wellness

- Conducted a 2-hour GBV talk and sexual wellness at the legacy centre together with the Siyafunda committee of UNASA.
- Attended at least 2 other sessions educating students on mental wellness and effective communication.

#### Climate Justice Charter

- Negotiating with facilities management to sign the Climate Justice Charter

### **Enhancing Student Access to Information:**

- This portfolio has compiled and issued a “Sustainable Living Off and On Campus Resource Pack” – in collaboration with DACES on Tygerberg and SU Facilities Management. The resource pack was disseminated amongst the student body (specifically all residence HKs) and sought to offer them feasible ways in which they can make their own lives more sustainable; and present this information in a concise and easy to read and follow manner.
  - The resource pack included:
    - Sustainability Events and Petitions
    - Food and Waste Management Tips
    - Energy and Water-Saving Tips
    - Sustainability games and media
    - Miscellaneous resources and DIY projects
  - This portfolio and facilities management hosted the earth week, here the link to the program: <https://tinyurl.com/247z6uv4>
  - We concluded the earth week with the Neelsie PV tour for which I was interviewed for on the use of energy sustainability and how best we can promote the saving of energy.
  - Please find attached the Resource/Guide Packs on Microsoft Sharepoint on this link: <https://stellenbosch.sharepoint.com/sites/SRCSustainability2/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

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- Gathered information on the Food Waste system of all university campuses and - system. As currently, only the Stellenbosch, Tygerberg and Bellville campuses make use of the food waste management system. The result of this was that Facilities Management of Stellenbosch University is currently exploring this as part of its long-term (between 5 to 10 years) plan to broaden sustainable campus practice and overall functioning.

## Budget

Sustainability		R15 548,00	
<u>Awareness and Marketing during O-week</u>		<u>R2 650,00</u>	
Refreshments	1	R200,00	R200,00
T-Shirts	15	R150,00	R2 250,00
Flyers	1	R200,00	R200,00
<u>Beach Clean up</u>		<u>R1 501,00</u>	
Transport	1	R876,00	R876,00
Refreshments	25	R25,00	R625,00
<u>Campus Sustainability Month</u>		<u>R300,00</u>	
Certificates	3	R100,00	R300,00
<u>Critical Engagement Session with Tygerberg Community</u>		<u>R709,00</u>	
Food	3	R125,00	R375,00
Transport	1	R334,00	R334,00
<u>Discretionary Funds- Sustainability</u>		<u>R1 000,00</u>	
<u>Discretionary Funds- Sustainability</u>		<u>R1 000,00</u>	
Discretionary Funds	1	R1 000,00	R1 000,00
<u>Entrepreneurs Market</u>		<u>R7 340,00</u>	
Venue	1	R800,00	R800,00
Advertising Costs	1	R400,00	R400,00
Certificates	4	R100,00	R400,00
First Aid	0	R0,00	R0,00
Guest Speaker	4	R200,00	R800,00
Refreshments	1	R4 740,00	R4 740,00
Promotional Video	1	R200,00	R200,00
<u>Go Green Movement</u>		<u>R600,00</u>	
Advertising Costs (Flyers and Posters)	1	R200,00	R200,00
Certificates	4	R100,00	R400,00
<u>Sustainability Fair</u>		<u>R200,00</u>	
Advertising Costs	1	R200,00	R200,00
<u>Sustainability Tour</u>		<u>R1 248,00</u>	
Transport	1	R623,00	R623,00
Refreshments	25	R25,00	R625,00

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## Budget & Reasoning

All the rates applied are standards rates from the tariff documents provided by the SRC Treasurer at the beginning of our term and provided by university suppliers on Tera Term (financial transaction system). However as there were not clear breakdowns from last portfolio holders some budget allocations were educated guesses which is becoming problematic to the portfolio as funds must be constantly transferred from one event to the other and be reapplied for.

Beach & River clean ups, awareness campaign during orientation week are a backbone for sustainability and can be expanded to environmental clean ups in safer local communities. It is worth an investment to research more on which beaches really need clean up and how best can the initiative be carried out.

## Expenditure so far

Sustainability			R9 726,88
<u>Awareness and Marketing during O-week</u>			<u>R400,00</u>
Refreshments	R200,00		R200,00
T-Shirts	R3 133,80	R3 133,80	R0,00
Flyers	R200,00		R200,00
<u>Beach Clean up</u>			<u>R214,09</u>
Transport	R1 240,20	R1 341,31	-R101,11
Refreshments	R625,00	R309,80	R315,20
<u>Campus Sustainability Month</u>			<u>R300,00</u>
Certificates	R300,00		R300,00
<u>Critical Engagement Session with Tygerberg Comm</u>			<u>R709,00</u>
Food	R375,00		R375,00
Transport	R334,00		R334,00
<u>Discretionary Funds- Sustainability</u>			<u>-R36,21</u>
Discretionary Funds	R1 000,00	R1 036,21	-R36,21
<u>Entrepreneurs Market</u>			<u>R7 340,00</u>
First Aid	R0,00		R0,00
Venue	R800,00		R800,00
Refreshments	R4 740,00		R4 740,00
Guest Speaker	R800,00		R800,00
Certificates	R400,00		R400,00
Advertising Costs	R400,00		R400,00
Promotional Video	R200,00		R200,00
<u>Go Green Movement</u>			<u>R600,00</u>

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	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent	Amount available
Advertising Costs (Flyers and Posters)	R200,00		R200,00
Certificates	R400,00		R400,00
			<hr/>
<u>Sustainability Fair</u>			<u>R200,00</u>
Advertising Costs	R200,00		R200,00
			<hr/>
<u>Sustainability Tour</u>			<u>R0,00</u>
Transport	R0,00		R0,00
Refreshments	R0,00		R0,00
			<hr/>

The negative balances reflect the amounts that have been spent so far.

To date we have used **R5415,4** and the breakdown is specified in the above budgets.

You can use other suppliers which are more affordable than Matie shop for clothing.

Beach & River clean ups vehicle bookings and drivers have been the bigger expense in that regard am quite unsure of what can be done about university vehicle tariffs but with drivers more SRC members and volunteers can be contacted to drive on a volunteer basis.

## Plans for next term

- Maintain and continuously improve our programs and resources that drive sustainability & innovation among students.
- More awareness among students.
- Continue with our go green initiative.

## Recommendations to improve portfolio

This portfolio can be improved through the building of a network of contacts which will be able to assist with the various initiatives and projects which are being embarked upon. For an example, Facilities Management at SU has a wide range of contacts of people who are involved in sustainability on campus (please find the contact below).

I would recommend that the next SRC continues collaborative initiatives with DACES and TSR on Tygerberg Campus and the Sustainability Group within SU Facilities Management. These have proved to be good groups and organizations to work with through this term and building on the work done during this year. Keeping up with the sustainability initiatives in Facilities Management which have been undertaken over a long period of time (including the

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integration of all campuses into the food waste system) but directly affect students by managing how sustainable the campus operates.

Furthermore, this portfolio should collaborate with the ecomaties society as well as the LaunchLab; if they wish to increase Innovation amongst students. In addition, I advise that this portfolio begins working with the Sustainability Institute as they can offer important insights pertaining to sustainability for the SRC.

Importantly, the next SRC member can ensure that the University maintains the system of the digital submissions of assignments by students even after the pandemic to ensure that the use and waste of paper remains minimal. This can be done through consulting SU Facilities Management, general management and the IT Hub to ensure continuity of the eco-friendly system.

If properly structured this portfolio is the future of student body. There is so much that can be done yet, so little has been pursued due to lack of quantifiable student engagement. Hence the question, how do we get more students on board should be constantly asked at the beginning of each day to serve the students better.

Some of the ideas had not been budgeted for and came in along the way, you can consider hosting bi-weekly or monthly entrepreneurial talks to educate more students on the offerings of the LaunchLab and other initiatives like the intervarsity competition or more so host a 6-month virtual innovation training with guest speakers from around the world.

Always consider news letter from LaunchLab, Down-to-earth and other related organization they're handful and makes your work better.

In future budgets separate sustainability and innovation events as most of them are hosted and expenses incurred for different and separately.

With regards to a subcommittee, care needs to be taken when choosing as some members are only interested in being attached to the SRC brand, and not in the real work and that will only be burdensome.

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## Important Contacts

Christine Groenewald (SU Facilities Management) [clgroenewald@sun.ac.za](mailto:clgroenewald@sun.ac.za) / +27 21 808 2452

Helen Fortuin (Marketing Manager || Launchlab) [-helen@launchlab.co.za](mailto:-helen@launchlab.co.za) | +27(0)649090153

Brandon Paschal [-brandon@launchlab.co.za](mailto:-brandon@launchlab.co.za)

Axl Maas( Organization ,Downtoearth) [-info@dtefrica.co.za](mailto:-info@dtefrica.co.za) or [downtoearthcape@gmail.com](mailto:downtoearthcape@gmail.com)

Doris Peters(Innovus) [-dpeters@sun.ac.za](mailto:-dpeters@sun.ac.za) | +27218083910

Sibongumenzi Mtshali (DACES Tygerberg) [20122586@sun.ac.za](mailto:20122586@sun.ac.za)

Dharshana Moodliar (TSR Sustainability): [20741456@sun.ac.za](mailto:20741456@sun.ac.za)

Sandra (Sustainability Week – Belgium): [sandra@sustainability-week.org](mailto:sandra@sustainability-week.org)

Sustainability Institute: 021 881 3500 / [info@sustainabilityinstitute.net](mailto:info@sustainabilityinstitute.net)

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