



SRC 2020/2021 Term 3 Report

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Constitutional Responsibilities

As the SRC Treasurer and Policy Officer, 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 21 and 26 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, to evaluate and give input on institutional policies, to facilitate projects to the benefit of students and finally to formulate policy in order for the SRC to perform their duties effectively. Section 26 further obligates me to submit a termly report of all my activities during the academic term to the Secretary. Finally, according to section 38 I have to attend an SRC meeting every two weeks during the academic term.

As an Executive Committee member, section 35 and 36 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.

As the Treasurer I am constitutionally mandated to perform certain policy and administrative duties. This includes developing financial policies for the SRC to ensure the transparent and responsible use of the financial resources and acting to ensure that these policies are adhered to. Practically this translates into the responsibility of approving all expenditure to be in line with pre-determined criteria.

As Policy Officer, my additional responsibilities are laid out in section 22(5). Thereby, I have to assist the SRC to formulate policies that will ensure our duties are performed effectively. I am further mandated to assist SRC members with evaluating and giving input on institutional policies. Finally, it is my responsibility to ensure the SRC revises and updates the Student Constitution when needed.

Portfolio Overview

Treasurer

The Treasurer's portfolio duties are not set out in detail within the Student Constitution. As such the exact functioning and duties of the portfolio have developed to fit into the traditional workings of an SRC and the overarching structure enforced by Student Governance. Within this context and my personal experience over the past term, the current portfolio duties can be distinguished into 5 broad categories.

Firstly, this portfolio is responsible for the SRC's budget. Although the power to approve and amend the budget lies within the executive committee's discretion- the Treasurer is delegated to perform the actual compilation. This includes all preceding procedures for the initial compilation and keeping the budget updated as amendments are made.

Secondly, this portfolio must develop policies to ensure that the financial resources are spent in a transparent and responsible manner. This would require drafting policies to regulate the internal financial affairs of the SRC within the broader institutional policy framework. The treasurer must then present these policies for approval at an SRC meeting as well as explain their working.

Thirdly, the Treasurer must assist other portfolio holders with the financial aspects of their portfolio duties. This educational role requires the Treasurer to support other SRC members with financial processing and navigating the labyrinth that is often called the Division Finance. In practice this would include publishing guides, offering training and answering queries. For portfolio holders not managing their own cost centres, the Treasurer will take on the role of managing their expenses on their behalf.

Fourthly, the Treasurer plays an administrative role in approving all expenses made. This is not a discretionary role but one of ensuring all expenses incurred are in fact in compliance with the pre-determined policies and reflects on the approved portfolio budgets.

Finally, this portfolio is ultimately responsible for the financial reporting of the SRC. Although this duty has been duly overlooked in past terms- it is intrinsically part of the Treasurer's duties in ensuring transparent usage of financial resources.

Policy Officer

This portfolio, as a compulsory portfolio, has prescribed duties that can be found in the Student Constitution. These duties have been set out above. Practically, these duties shape 4 areas that must be worked on.

Firstly, I have to interpret and evaluate institutional policies. This concurrently entails assisting other SRC members with evaluating the policies that they are dealing with in their relevant committees and task teams. The end goal of this area is to ensure that the SRC provides a voice for students when the Institution formulates and approves policies to regulate its activities.

Secondly, the Policy Officer must formulate and/or assist other SRC members to formulate policies regulating the SRC. I should ensure that a regulatory framework is created that appropriately regulates our activities. This framework should be in the form of policies that regulate but also does not hamper our ability to perform our functions effectively.

Thirdly, I must interpret policies. This includes the interpretation of SRC policies, internal rules, institutional policies, and the Student Constitution. Thereby, I need to be available to explain what the proper interpretation of any of the above is for members of the SRC. In effect, this mandate should also manifest in reviews off the SRC's current compliance with all regulations to which we should be held.

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Finally, I have to ensure the Student Constitution is appropriately updated. This includes ensuring that all steps necessary for the correct revision of the Student Constitution is followed through with.

Committees / Task Teams

Outside of the abovementioned portfolio duties, I served on the following committees:

Institutional Committees:

Senate

The Senate is responsible for the academic and research functions of the Institution and reports to the Council. Its composition is by and large professors of the Institution with some members of the senior management also represented. Its functions can be found in section 19 of the Stellenbosch University Statute and can be summarised as regulating all learning, teaching, research, and academic support functions at the Institution. It is further responsible for forwarding recommendations to Council on policies that affect academic matters.

The only Senate meeting of this term took place on 4 June 2021. In this meeting Management reports were presented, the Library Committee annual report was presented, and APC recommendations were explained. Two management reports were presented by the Rector and Vice-Rector Social Impact, Transformation & Personnel respectively.

Naming Committee

The Naming Committee was established in terms of the Institution's Policy on the naming of Buildings, Venues and other Facilities/Premises. The main objective during our term was to propose a new name for the former Wilcocks building to Rectorate. This committee was chaired by the Registrar and included 5 staff members, a representative from the alumni relations, an historian and 2 student representatives.

The committee's function with regards to Wilcocks has been completed and the committee suspended thereafter. This committee's internal discussions, procedures and conclusions were deemed to be confidential by the chair and as such no information on that can be shared in this report.

Quality Committee (QC)

The QC was established in 1993 to ensure all departments in this institution are following the appropriate procedure for assessing the quality of their 'services.' This committee does not itself assess the quality but assists the departments to set their own criteria and reviews their internal procedures. The QC aims to assess all departments over a 5-year cycle. Departments include all faculties and administrative departments of the Institution. The QC is chaired by the Vice-rector Learning and Teaching and the secretary is the senior adviser of the Academic Planning and Quality Assurance division. The SRC holds 2 seats on this committee.

During the QC meeting for this term, 3 departments were reviewed. The specific departments were the Theology Faculty, Agronomy Department and Division of Student Affairs.

Student Debt Working Group (SDWG)

This working group was established in 2018 with the sole purpose of providing in-debt students financial access to register for their studies. Historically this working group was referred to as the 'historic debt task team' but due to the misperceptions that this working group aims to assist with all historic debt the name was changed. As it now stands the main criteria that the SDWG uses is whether a student intends to register for studies in this year but is barred from doing so by their debt due to the Institution. It is important to understand that this is not an institutional committee with a set budget but merely a working group of staff and students that aim to divert and direct students to

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appropriate channels and find funding to assist them to clear their debt in order to register. As it stands, the SDWG consists of 3 staff members from the Undergraduate and Postgraduate funding offices as well as a member from Student Accounts. The student section consists of two SRC members.

At the time of this report, the working group has concluded their work. Due to the ad hoc nature, the institution is currently working on institutionalising the duties performed thereby and the SRC members serving thereon are assisting with advice on how such a committee should be structured

Senate Library Committee

This sub-committee of Senate reports to Senate on the academic activities of the Library and Information Service. Practically this entails developing policies, reviewing existing policies and giving strategic input from an academic perspective on the activities and functioning of the Library and Information Service. The scope of this committee's review and report powers covers all 6 SU libraries as well as the infrastructure utilised to provide access of the information material to students and staff of the Institution. The committee is chaired by the Vice-Rector for Research, Innovation and postgraduate studies and include other senior staff members such as the Vice-Rector for Learning and Teaching, the Dean of Students, the Senior Director: Library and Information Services and the Chairperson of the department of Information Science. The remainder of the committee consists of 7 members of Senate and 2 SRC members which alternate attending meetings. This Committee currently only meets twice in a calendar year.

No meeting took place this term. I will attend a meeting in August.

SRC Committees

SRC Executive Committee

The SRC Executive Committee is established by section 34 of the Student Constitution, and I serve thereon by virtue of being the Treasurer. This committee is given additional powers and duties for the proper administration of the SRC's functions. Such duties are set out in above under constitutional responsibilities. Above and beyond those powers, the executive committee has been delegated additional duties and powers by institutional structures that have not been directly delegated unto them in terms of section 35(1)(c). The powers below do not have direct constitutional authorisation but have been developed through custom. This includes meetings solely between Rectorate and the executive committee on a regular basis; meetings solely between the senior management of DSAF (Division for Student Affairs) and the executive committee; appointing SRC Managers; and making urgent decisions whilst the SRC is in recess.

During the past term I attended all of the executive committee meetings.

SRC Disciplinary Committee

The SRC Disciplinary Committee is a sub-committee established by the Vice-Chairperson by virtue of their responsibility to manage the internal relations and discipline in the SRC. This committee takes the responsibility to amend the code of conduct that is then presented to the SRC to adopt in terms of section 29 of the Constitution. This committee then utilises the procedures in the adopted code of conduct to discipline SRC members when appropriate. The composition of this committee is established by the code of conduct and includes the Vice-Chairperson as the ex officio chair, 1 additional SRC member elected by the SRC, and 3 other students appointed by the Vice-Chairperson.

This Committee did not meet in this term.

RegisterAll Task Team

The RegisterAll Task Team runs the annual SRC project that assists students with registering. This assistance is both informational and financial in nature. The Task Team's functioning is determined

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each year by the incoming SRC and therefore massive changes have been made from prior years. Key characteristics this year included a complete migration to online processes, extensive advertising to the student body, parallel processes for Tygerberg and Main Campus, and personalised application forms utilising SunSurvey. The implementation required the consultation with and approvals from Student Accounts, Undergraduate Bursaries and Loans, Postgraduate Office, and the Registrar's Office. The other procedures and membership to the task team has extensively been reported on can be requested on request from the Task Team. The general process can however be summarised as following: planning and consultation, advertise, receive requests, send applications and instalment forms, assist with breaking payment into instalments, review applications, submit names to Registrar's office and inform students of outcome.

The SRC's annual registration assistance project incurred R248 523,33. These funds were used to assist 32 students in the following manner:

- 14 Postgraduate students and 18 Undergraduate students
- 14 students with Accommodation and 18 students without

The funds were used from the SRC's Reserve Fund. This decision was made in order for the SRC to utilise their operational funds to the fullest extent since we were at that point in time not yet informed of what our funds would be. This practice is however not sustainable. The SRC is therefore in the process of engaging with stakeholders to find a better model to fund this annual project.

A full report will be released detailing the processes followed and further recommendations.

Honoraria Review Committee

This committee was established by the Executive Committee of the SRC to investigate the current regulations, levels, and monetary value of honoraria across leadership structures at the Institution. The objective is to present the Executive Committee with a comprehensive report, including proposals, by the end of 2020. This report is then to be proposed to DSAF and a consultative process be commenced to amend the current honoraria rules across the institution.

Since the previous term report, the committee's duties have been concluded. I am however still in the process of writing the report to be presented to DSAF.

Constitutional Review Committee

This committee was established by the Policy Officer in order to comply with the constitutional requirement to review the Student Constitution in 2021. The committee members were individually selected by the Policy Officer based on policy and constitutional experience. It consists of 4 members plus the Policy Officer acting as the chairperson.

This committee has concluded our duties. All amendments were compiled in a referendum document presented to the SRC, Student Parliament and student populace by virtue of a mass meeting. The SRC subsequently voted in the amendments. The Election Convenor has finalised the referendum and the final phase is now ratification by Council.

Matie To Matie Committee

This committee was established in terms of the SRC's Requesting SRC Financial Assistance Policy. 5 SRC members serve on this committee, which is headed by the convenor, Gina Sibanda. The committee meets on a weekly basis to review applications and find measures to assist students.

During this term, numerous requests were dealt with and the criteria that was developed was used. The details of applications accepted can be found within the SRC's Midterm Financial report.

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Other Committees

Treasurer's Forum

The Student Parliament Constitution obligates their executive treasurer to convene a Treasurer's forum consisting of treasurers across leadership structures as set out in that provision. The SRC is not bound by this task team, but I would in any case be willing to voluntarily sit on such a forum. At the time of this report, being 10 months after the SPC's appointment, this forum not yet been convened. The Executive Treasurer for Student Parliament has however requested me to meet and discuss my budget, presumably based on his powers delegated by this provision, but upon my positive response he has not made any contact again since. As of now I do not see this forum as having any benefits based on the glaring failure to convene it at a stage where I and other Treasurers were still able to make changes to our budgets and programs.

Policy Forum

The Student Parliament Constitution obligates them to establish a policy forum. To date this forum has not yet been convened. There is however a forum scheduled for the next term. I was requested to submit a policy report to be discussed at this forum. I have subsequently sent in this report which can be found as addendum A to this report. For brevity, addendums to the policy report have been excluded from Addendum A.

Term Overview

Executive Committee member

As an Executive Committee member, I attended all exec meetings, meetings with the Rectorate and meetings with DSAf. To address the concern of managing the SRC's spaces, I drafted an SRC Office Manager Proposal which resulted in us subsequently appointing an office manager.

Treasurer

As Treasurer, I processed the SRC's payments and recorded all transactions in my reporting framework. Additionally, I assisted members with structuring their projects' expenditure so as to remain within their budgets. At the start of the term I also commenced with a midterm budget review whereby funds were reallocated or cut from budgets so as to ensure only realistic projects would remain budgeted for. This process assisted with freeing up funds necessary to finance new projects that were capable of coming to fruition given our current Covid levels and regulations.

Policy Officer

As Policy Officer, my largest portion of work was the revision of the Student Constitution. This entailed finalising the formatting and numbering of the draft constitution, writing a report on the process that was followed, writing a report on the large amendments made, and writing the memorandum to Council. These processes have been completed successfully and the draft Constitution is now at Council to be approved. I will be making representations there in favour of the Constitution but have submitted all relevant reports to ensure Council is fully informed of the content.

I also attended a workshop with the CSCD where the new substance policy was explained to students. I engaged in that session and aimed to understand what that policy entailed. Although the session was not as fruitful due to a lack of willingness to engage in good faith with the students, I drafted a report explaining the key points from the proposed policy. This report was presented to the SRC to allow them to understand what is in the pipeline. Steps forward would include a full workshop with the SRC where the policy can be delved into in detail. That workshop will allow the SRC to draft its formal feedback and inputs to the policy.

During this term I commenced with a compliance review process. This entailed comparing the SRC's current actions with the Student Constitution, Disciplinary Code, internal policies, and institutional policies. Once finalised, this report will detail exactly where the SRC is currently not complying with its regulatory framework. This report will only be addressed at the Executive Committee so as to inform them of what should be addressed during our final term.

Another duty I had to fulfil this term was the interpretation of policies. This consisted of providing an interpretation of constitutional duties and relevant institutional policies when members request it.

Student Parliament performed their first substantive function by initiating the steps to host a policy forum in the next term. In this endeavour they requested all bodies constituted by the Student Constitution to submit policy review reports. I complied with this request and handed in the report that can be found as Addendum A. For brevity, that report excludes its addendums in this report.

On request from the Election Convenor, I initiated steps to amend the current Student Constitution. It was requested to again amend the constitution to remove the requirement of needing 200 signatures in order to stand for the SRC election. I drafted the amendment proposal and submitted it for an SRC vote at a special meeting. This amendment passed successfully. As a result, the current constitution was amended but it does not affect the new constitution since the new constitution's amendment process will only come into effect when Council ratifies it.

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Finally, I drafted a memorandum in response to Student Parliament's request to amend the deadlines in the new constitution. Student Parliament requested the purported deadline for them to amend their constitution to be moved from the current 1 September. The SRC discussed this and on my representation agreed to not submit to the request. As such, no further amendments was made to the constitution submitted to Council.

SRC member

During this term I attended all SRC meetings and attended most SRC projects. This included the Pride Walk, Transformation workshop and Wellness sessions. I also contributed during the SRC's statement planning where I gave input as well as drafted. As a member of Student Parliament, I also attended the plenary session during this term. I furthermore attended and contributed to discussions with the CDC regarding its current procedures as well as the CSC regarding the amended Residence Placement Policy. In general, I have also engaged with other SRC members regarding their projects and gave input and/or acted as a soundboard to assist with the successes thereof.

After extensive planning and presenting proposals, a resolution to upgrade the multimedia capacity of the SRC boardroom was passed in the prior term. On finalisation, this project aims to have the boardroom capable of hosting webinars and online meetings with ease. During this term all equipment was purchased and are currently in the SRC's boardroom. Installation of the equipment is however severely delayed due to Facilities Management not recognising the urgency of our request and continuously delaying communication and progress. This is aimed to be finalised in the next term.

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Budget

The Treasurer Portfolio did not spend any of its funds during this term. The R250,00 left in the discretionary fund has not yet been utilised.

The Policy Officer portfolio was inherited as is from the previous Policy Officer. As such certain projects which were envisioned initially will not be taking place anymore. A pure Policy Workshop project for example was deemed unnecessary to still take place at this late stage of our term. The Policy Forum was also deemed redundant due to Student Parliament deciding to indeed host a policy forum from their side. I therefore utilised R5 648,80 from those projects to assist the Transformation Portfolio in hosting their Transformation workshop. The funds were all used to cater for the two days that the workshop was hosted for. No other funds were spent from this portfolio and in the subsequent round of amendments, the existing projects was unbudgeted.

Project	Amount budgeted	Amounts Spent	Amount Remaining	Notes
<i>Constitutional Review</i>	R4 440,00	R1 188,00	R3 362,00	Unbudgeted subsequently
<i>Policy Forum</i>	R3 100,00	R2 824,40	R275,60	Used for Transformation Workshop Catering
<i>Policy Workshop</i>	R3 100,00	R2 824,40	R275,60	Used for Transformation Workshop Catering
<i>Discretionary Funds</i>	R1 000,00	R0,00	R1 000,00	Remain for unforeseen expenses

It is important to note that the lack of expenditure by these two portfolios do not indicate a lack of performance. The Policy officer and Treasurer are not event-based portfolios and as such perform most functions and responsibilities without the need to spend funds.

The Midterm Financial report has already been published, the SRC's Final Financial report will only be released at the conclusion of our term.

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Plans for next term

Treasurer

1. Compile the SRC Final Financial Report
2. Engage with DSAF on the monetary allocations to student structures
3. Finalise the RegisterAll report with the Financial Access Member
4. Continuously manage and amend the SRC budget so as to ensure there is funds available to finalise all projects still envisioned by the SRC in our final

Policy Officer

1. Ensure ratification of amended Student Constitution by Council. This will include make representations at Council's Executive Committee and to Division Student Affairs
2. Draft an SRC Handover Framework
3. Create a composite document with all SRC Policies
4. Lay the groundwork for the next Policy Officer's additional constitutional duty of acting as the repository for all student constitutions
5. Continue to evaluate and give input on formulation of institutional policies:
 - a. Mental Health Policy
 - b. Substance Policy
 - c. Language Policy

Recommendations to improve portfolios

As has been excluded in my 2 prior reports, I will again not be giving recommendations to improve my portfolios. I have deemed it unnecessary to give staggered recommendations that would lead to a successor reading 4 different reports to find recommendations. As such I will only give recommendations in my final report and handover reports.

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Addendum I SRC Policy Report



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SRC POLICY REPORT TO STUDENT PARLIAMENT

Report on policy changes and challenges faced by the SRC during the
2020/2021 term

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Foreword

To the Speaker and deputy speakers of Student Parliament,

This report is drafted in response to the request from Student Parliament to report on the policy changes, updates and challenges faced by the SRC. The SRC recognises that there is no explicit constitutional obligation to comply with this request. However, in the interest of accountability, transparency, and consultative government, the SRC is more than willing to contribute to the vision of the Policy Forum and engage on the relevant matters.

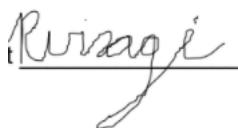
The SRC deals with policy matters in 3 independent spheres. Firstly, as the highest policy making student structure, we give input on and sit on institutional committees responsible for drafting and enforcing institutional policies. Secondly, as the SRC we are empowered by the SU Statute and current Student Constitution to amend the Student Constitution. Finally, as a student structure, we have the inherent power to create policies to regulate our internal affairs. I will report on all 3 of these facets within this report.

These facets will be systematically reported on in the following manner, I will start off with explaining how we deal with institutional policies and which policies we have dealt with during our term. I will then set out how the SRC has enacted and revised policies under our control. Thereafter I will highlight key challenges to policymaking and consulting that the SRC has faced in our term. Finally, I will raise some requests and give recommendations on how policy formulation can be improved in student structures.

As a caveat, please do have cognisance of the fact that I have taken over the position as policy officer from the second term of 2021. Therefore, I can only fully report on matters in the past 4 months but will have to rely on earlier second-hand reports for events before that.

Finally, version 3.2 of the Student Constitution is still the version in force at the time of this report. All references to the Student Constitution, including section references and references to duties and powers, are therefore made to that version.

Yours Sincerely,



SRC Policy Officer & Treasurer 2020/21

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Institutional Policies

Introduction

Section 18 of the Student Constitution read with section 27 of the Stellenbosch University Statute places the SRC as the highest policymaking student structure at Stellenbosch University. Through seats on Council, Senate, Institutional Forum, and various other institutional committees- the SRC fulfils this role by directly engaging on policy formulation and approval. Indirectly, the SRC attends policy workshops and consultation sessions where we gain insight on proposed policies. We then raise concerns, recommendations, and lobby for changes through a policy's public feedback submission portal. When needed, we engage directly with the rectorate, policy owners or relevant stakeholders to ensure students' interests are fully prioritised in all policies.

Statutory Policymaking

In order to effectively hold the SRC accountable, the following members sit on statutory institutional committees with policymaking powers. The specific policies that have been engaged on in the forums are listed. Please do note that a policy listed here was discussed at the forum but not necessarily voted and approved.

Council

Members:

- Mr Xola Njengele
- Ms Ayesha Abou-zeid

Policies:

- Disciplinary Code
- Language Policy
- Code for Employment Equity and Diversity
- Constitution of the School for Climate Studies
- Visual Identity
- Short Term Rental Policy

Senate

Members:

- Ms Makabongwe Kaseke
- Mr Philip Visage
- Ms Leone Wilkinson
- Mr Jarryd Luyt

Policies:

- Mandate of the Academic Planning Committee
- Institutional Rules for the Convocation

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- Criteria for Bursaries and Loans 2021
- Research Data Management Regulations
- Rules and Procedures for Conferment of Emeritus Professorships and Emeritus Associate Professorships
- Short Term Rental Policy
- Rules on the Appointment of Vice Deans and Acting Deans
- Constitution of the School for Climate Studies
- Language Policy
- Assessment Rules
- Recruitment Bursaries Criteria
- Visual Identity

Institutional Forum

Members:

- Ms Viwe Kobokana
- Ms Kira Alberts

Policies:

- Visual Redress Policy
- Language Policy
- Revised Assessment Policy

Indirect Policy consultation

The SRC engaged with the relevant policy owners on the following policy formulations and revisions during our term:

- Language Policy
 - The SRC met with Dr Van der Merwe to fully understand the changes to this policy
 - The SRC took in comments from the student body at an open Rooiplein event
 - The SRC submitted written recommendations and objections to the policy through the appropriate feedback portal
 - The SRC members sitting on the language committee are following the recommendations submitted by the SRC to ensure proper consideration thereof
- Residence Placement Policy
 - The SRC met with Dr Nel to fully understand the changes to this policy and submitted verbal recommendations in the meeting
- The Management of Smoking and Substance use at Stellenbosch University
 - The SRC attended an information session with Dr Dunn-Coetzee to fully understand the scope of the policy
 - The SRC intends to host a workshop with members to brief everyone on the policy
 - The SRC will then submit written feedback on the objections and recommendations it has
- Mental Health Policy
 - The SRC was not directly involved in this policy's formulation as of yet

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- The SRC has noted with concern that the Rectorate do not agree with the policy and rather suggested it be reformulated as a mental health plan
- The SRC is in communication with CSCD to determine the reasoning for why a policy was rejected
- Depending on the information received from CSCD, the SRC intends to lobby for a policy to still be implemented or at least a modicum of bindingness attached to the proposed “plan.”
- Disciplinary Code
 - The SRC noted with concern that the latest Disciplinary Code was never published online and all hyperlinks on the CDC’s website referred students to the prior Code
 - The SRC raised the concerns and ensured that the new Code is now uploaded to the website and accessible to all students

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Policy Changes

Introduction

The SRC has the power to both amend the Student Constitution as well as regulate its internal affairs through policies. During this term, both these powers have been exercised and I have set that out below.

Student Constitution

The SRC's processes in amending the Student Constitution has been documented and can be found in detail as Addendum 1. The finalised Student Constitution as submitted to Council can be found as Addendum 2.

Internal Policies

The SRC regulates its own affairs in 3 manners. Firstly, the SRC voted in its Code of Conduct in terms of section 29 of the Student Constitution. The Code can be found as Addendum 3. Secondly, the SRC passed 9 financial policies, in terms of section 22(4)(b) of the Student Constitution, to regulate its financial activities. Given the relatively large operational budget of the SRC, the policies are required to ensure fruitful and transparent expenditure. These policies can be found as Addendums 4. Finally, the SRC is in the process of developing a transformation framework. This framework will strive to ensure all SRC projects and events are fully inclusive and accessible. Although this framework may not be completed by the end of the current SRC term, the work done will be handed over to the next SRC to implement accordingly.

Policy Challenges, Recommendations and Requests

The SRC has faced considerable challenges in policy formulation and implementation. Below is a brief outline which may serve as a guideline for future SRCs and Student Parliaments to form measures which would negate the challenges.

Firstly, the largest challenge is education. Policymaking is a skill that most student leaders are forced to learn whilst doing it. A method of education student leaders at the start of their terms will drastically increase not only understanding but compliance with relevant constitutions including the Student Constitution. Clear guidance should hereby be provided to Student Governance and CSC so as to ensure student leaders are adequately trained in this regard.

Secondly, a lack of understanding what policies entail and how it affects the ordinary student is prevalent. Students, including student leaders, are often disinterested in engaging in policy formulation and review since they do not understand what a policy is and thereby to what extent it may affect them. Broader awareness of policies, especially institutional policies, should be prioritised.

Thirdly and likely the most controversial, students are in cases not respected by staff members. This results in recommendations and objections being disregarded due to insufficient priority being attached to student leaders' voices. Although this has not been the norm and the SRC applauds the majority of staff members we do work with, any staff member not engaging with the SRC in good faith serves to undermine the statutory obligation we have to students. Current solutions are to involve superiors of staff members, but the end goal would be mutual respect between all student leaders and staff whereby both groups recognise the important work that each other does.

Fourthly, there is an inaccessibility of institutional policies. Although the official directory has finally been restored, it is still very much confusing and unwelcome to the general student. As such, students are not able to determine what current institutional rules are unless they do a deep dive into the policies. It is recommended that a student structure lobbies for the policy records to be made more accessible and navigable.

Fifthly, student policies are not publicly available. In order for benchmarking, evaluation, transparency, and broader knowledge- students should have access to all rules within the institution. As such, the SRC recommends a comprehensive record of all student constitutions, codes of conduct, rules, and terms of references to be created. This requires cooperation from all student structures and a complete deviation from current practices of secrecy and unnecessary confidentiality.

Sixthly and linked to the fifth concern, there is clear differences in standards of conduct between student structures. Naturally the unavailability of all policies has resulted in it being

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impossible for standardisation to occur. Some examples include how discipline is enforced, how minutes are made available, how internal elections take place, and to what extent higher bodies' decisions are binding on its constituent structures.

Finally, the approaches taken by staff structures in creating, revising, reviewing, and amending policies directly affecting students have been inconsistent. Students are selected by staff to form part of relevant bodies doing the work. This is in direct contrast with the role of the SRC as the highest student policymaking body. In my interpretation of this role, the SRC should be the body that elect students to these positions and not staff members themselves selecting students. The composition of these bodies leads to the SRC being ineffective in this key duty to form and review policies affecting students.

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