

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
COUNCIL, BLOEMFONTEIN CAMPUS
FINAL TERM REPORT 2016/2017**

August 2017

UNIVERSITY OF THE
FREE STATE
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE
VRYSTAAT
YUNIVESITHI YA
FREISTATA





Vision, Mission, and Core Values

Vision: Our vision is to ensure access, support, and success for students of the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein Campus.

Mission: To strive towards an engaged and united student community. In support of the vision, we strive to ensure participation of students on issues that concern them. To ensure that there is nothing about the students, without them.

Core Values:

- ❖ Student-driven leadership
- ❖ Academic excellence
- ❖ Non-racialism
- ❖ Non-sexism
- ❖ Democracy
- ❖ Ubuntu

CONTENT PAGE

1. Introduction.....	4
2. Secretariat Report.....	6
3. The Team.....	8
4. Treasury.....	10
5. Safety of off-campus students.....	15
6. Policy and Parliament.....	18
7. Registration.....	24
8. Deregistration.....	28
9. Thuso Desk.....	31
10. SRC Fund.....	36
• Business Breakfast.....	37
• Kovies Biggest Braai.....	38
11. Postgraduate students.....	43
12. International students.....	49
13. Residences.....	54
• On campus residences.....	54
• Off campus accommodation.....	56
14. Student participation and campus activities.....	60
• Arts and Culture.....	60
• Sports.....	65
• Associations.....	72
15. SRC Media.....	73
• Student media council.....	73
• SRC Uniform.....	81
16. Legal and constitutional affairs.....	83
17. Academics.....	85
18. Transformation.....	94
19. Victories of the SRC.....	98
20. SRC Executive Committee.....	99

INTRODUCTION



The SRC elections could not take place in August 2016 because of #FEES MUST FALL protests, consequently the SRC term was extended until the end of the 2016 academic year. The Transitional Student Council (TSC), consisting of ex officio SRC members, was established with the mandate to assist with the registration of students, facilitate and oversee the registration of student associations, and ensure that the SRC elections takes place. This mandate was executed exceptionally and we thank the TSC for their ability to lead in uncertain times. The SRC elections took place on 27 and 28 March 2017. The SRC recognise and is aware of the socio-economic conditions that are facing some students. With that in mind, one of the SRC's primary mandates is to ensure that no student is financially excluded. At the beginning of March, 5 573 students were at risk of deregistration. Efforts to minimise the risk, including R2,1 million raised by the SRC and the Vice-Chancellor, led to the Rector overriding the deregistration. Through robust engagement between the SRC, the University management, and intervention from students, NO STUDENT WAS DEREGISTRED (financially excluded) in the academic year of 2017. The SRC continues to provide support for students with food, textbooks and academic assistance through its recently established THUSO DESK. The SRC receives requests for assistance from students on a daily basis regarding academic exclusion, and plays a leading role in assisting the students. The SRC took all NSFAS-related issues to the institutional and national level. We are disturbed by the NSFAS processes and continue to support the call for free education in our lifetime.

The year 2016 will be remembered at the university and throughout the country for the racial incident that took place at Shimla Park, which questioned the transformation agenda of universities. It is clear that the University of the Free State is still battling to understand what a transformed university should look like. The academic year of 2017 saw the inauguration of Prof FW Petersen, meaning a new context for the University of the Free State. Through our interactions with Prof Petersen, we align ourselves to his vision and we will support him in building a transformed University of the Free State as far as our interests are not compromised.

Our strategic objectives are as follows:

1. Integration and safety of off-campus students
2. Policy-oriented administration
3. Facilitation of functional student governance structures

4. Integration of postgraduate students in campus-related issues
5. Being a structure that will be responsive to immediate issues of students
6. Improved and inclusive sport and arts programmes
7. Student development

As immediate issues, the SRC have managed to convince the university to extend the computer labs. In the struggle for free internet, discussions with the university led to students receiving 4G per month, and internet at a cheaper and faster rate. The SRC continues to engage with the university management and is currently investigating models for free internet.

The SRC have noted that there is no structure to advise the University Council on student services and policy as stipulated in the Higher Education Act. This means that the university is currently non-compliant to this provision of the ACT. On 2 June 2017, the SRC proposed a structure to the University Council which will be discussed fully during the next Council meeting. We encourage our students to participate in the process of the SRC's constitutional review, the Integrated Transformation Plan of the university, and the anti-discrimination and sexual harassment policies. The SRC will also have a process to review residence culture and tradition. We believe that the practices in residences must not outweigh the constitutional rights of individuals, especially first-year students. Currently, we are working on frameworks that will ensure effective student governance for the next five years.

There is nothing about the students without the students, and it is in this spirit that we are submitting our final-term report to all students enrolled at the University of the Free State Bloemfontein Campus. This report seeks to communicate challenges, successes, and future programmes of the Student Representative Council's 2016-2017 term.

STUDENTS SERVICES COMMITTEE

Following the SRC submission to council for establishment of student service council, after a robust engagement between the SRC and University, the management agreed on covert the student service forum and introduce a student service committee. The committee will advise council on student services. The committee provides an opportunity for students to raise concerns and ensure that services provided to students are of good quality

SECRETARIAT REPORT



This is the final-term report of the University of the Free State's 2016/2017 Student Representative Council (SRC), Bloemfontein Campus. The SRC consists of 20 council members, aided by an Executive Committee (EC) within the SRC structure to assist SRC members with their daily duties. The SRC EC is composed of 180 students.

1. STATE OF THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

After the March 2017 SRC Elections, council members did not receive any formal hand-over of office due to the elections being in March. It was noted that council members felt largely overwhelmed by the responsibilities of their portfolios, which hindered their academic performance. Council members were expected to study, adapt, and ensure that no student was deregistered, all at the same time. This affected their academic performance greatly. I therefore recommend that the incoming SRC Student Accessibility and Support creates a kind of bridge to the relevant support structures on campus. I also recommend that outgoing SRC members do not alienate themselves from the structure, but to provide the necessary support to the newly elected leadership in order to smooth over the transition process. And finally, there should be an efficient handover ceremony.

Council members need to learn delegation skills. Several council members were overwhelmed by the responsibilities which came with the office, because they failed to delegate tasks to the EC members. They have EC members, and should use them!

With regards to discipline, SRC members should take initiative in understanding the governance structures of the institution. One presentation during the strategic plan is not enough for members to acquire institutional memory. Members must take initiative to get informed and, most importantly, members should come to meetings prepared, having read the necessary documents.

The cooperation between structures must be strengthened. There is a disconnection between Residence Committee structures and the SRC. Since the dissolution of the 2008 SRC, student governance was disrupted, creating confusion and a vacuum in the residence governance structures, resulting in a disconnection from the SRC. However, the SRC Secretary General (SG) must form relations with the secretariat of both residences and associations in order to repair this important relationship. The SRC SG must chair all secretaries on campus to ensure a consistent flow of information.

2. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL EVENTS

During their five months, the SRC was able to implement the majority of its programmes from the strategic planning document and the SRC Calendar. The events which were not implemented were due to time constraints in a congested SRC Calendar. The events completed by the SRC's various portfolios will be reflected throughout the report.

However, the SRC should move away from being a project-based structure, as this will allow the structure to focus on governance. I therefore recommend that the incoming Secretary General compile a Student Life Calendar, comprising all Association, Residence, and SRC events. This will relieve the SRC of being project-based, as it will allow them to focus on governance, with two or three big events during its term.

The SRC is grateful for the overwhelming support expressed by the student community regarding their events throughout the term. The general student apathy on campus has also largely improved. We must commend students for taking more interest in student life.

3. POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Two policies were recently adopted by the Student Parliament through the office of the Vice-President, which is contained in her report.

My recommendation for the Secretariat Office is to establish a Deputy Secretary portfolio through policy development. Currently, the office of the Secretary is largely disadvantaged, as its primary role are administrative, which hinders the member to act as a fully functional executive member. The office of the Secretary is completely overwhelmed with administrative duties, sitting in five sub-committees, SRC meetings, Dean's meetings, Rectorate meetings, etc., marginalising the full functionality of being an executive member. However, because this can only be achieved through policy development in the interim, I recommend that the EC Chairperson of the Secretary be allowed to attend Council meetings only to take minutes, and to be allowed to sit in sub-committees on behalf of the SRC Secretary General, since we are looking to establish a Deputy Secretary portfolio.

4. TRANSPARENCY

The SRC has been largely transparent regarding the functioning of its offices and the duration of its engagements. SRC minutes have been emailed to all students on the Bloemfontein Campus monthly, and even posted on the University of the Free State SRC webpage at <https://www.ufs.ac.za/kovsielife/unlisted-pages/src-archive/ufs-bloemfontein-src-news>. The Office of the Secretary has also released the SRC Mid-term Report on every student's email and the University of the Free State website.

SRC COUNCIL MEMBERS



Mr Luwaca
President



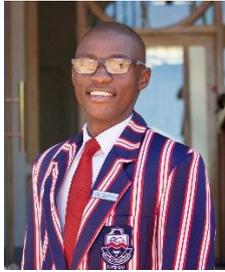
Ms Manyayi
Vice-President



Ms Hlophe
Secretary General



Ms Nhlapo
Treasurer General



Mr Dlanjwa
Associations & Dialogue



Mr Van der Walt
RAG



Ms Makhetha
Postgraduate



Ms Leteane
Transformation



Mr Lesebo
First Generation



Ms Choane
Day Residences



Mr Litsoane
Accessibility & Support



Ms Booi
Sport



Ms Kabaso
Campus Residences



Mr Nyamunda
International Students



Ms Mashego
Student Media



Mr Rasephei
Academics



Mr Modukanele
Legal & Constitutional Affairs



Mr Ntebele
Arts & Culture



Ms Mthethwa
Student Development



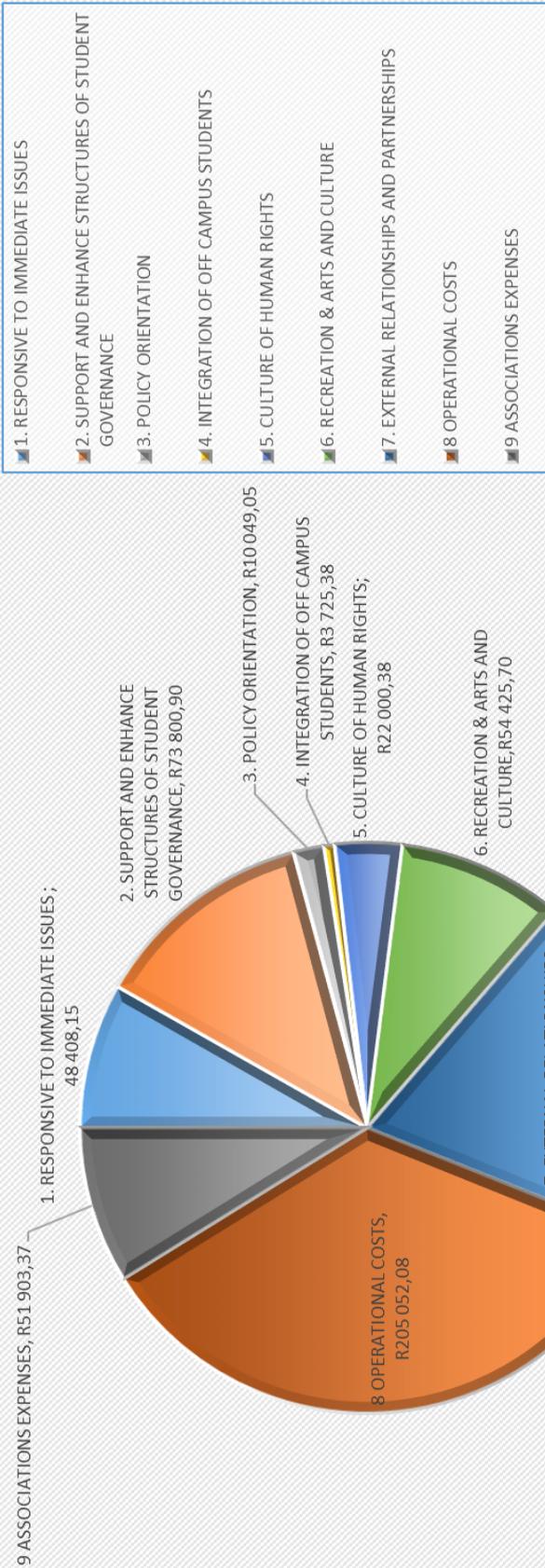
Ms Motsumi
Media & Marketing

TREASURY REPORT



1. The University of the Free State has allocated R650 000 to the 2016/17 SRC for the operational period from 1 April 2017 to 23 August 2017.
2. This financial report is prepared with the current SRC's strategic goals as the core points of reference, which are as follows:
 - 2.1 Response to immediate issues
 - 2.2 Support and enhance structures of student governance
 - 2.3 Policy orientation
 - 2.4 Integration of off-campus students
 - 2.5 Integration of postgraduate students
 - 2.6 Culture of Human Rights
 - 2.7 Recreation and Arts and Culture
 - 2.8 External relationships and partnerships

SRC YEAR-END FINANCIAL EXPENDITURE



- 1. RESPONSIVE TO IMMEDIATE ISSUES
- 2. SUPPORT AND ENHANCE STRUCTURES OF STUDENT GOVERNANCE
- 3. POLICY ORIENTATION
- 4. INTEGRATION OF OFF CAMPUS STUDENTS
- 5. CULTURE OF HUMAN RIGHTS
- 6. RECREATION & ARTS AND CULTURE
- 7. EXTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS AND PARTNERSHIPS
- 8 OPERATIONAL COSTS
- 9 ASSOCIATIONS EXPENSES

<u>THE SRC 2016/17 YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT</u>	
<u>REPORTING PERIOD (FROM 1/04/17 TO 23/08/17)</u>	
SRC Opening Balance 1 April 2017	R650 000
Donations and sponsorships	R0,00
Total Income	R650 000,00
<u>1. RESPONSIVE TO IMMEDIATE ISSUES</u>	-48 408,15
Unforeseen circumstances (3 787,02 + 500,00 + 200,00 + 1 050,00 + 9 900,00 + 4 800,00)	R20 237,02
Advance claims	R493,95
NSFAS enquiries	R19 987,08
Compiling of aggregate student enquiries	R894,50
Higher Education Summit	R4 104,00
Policy Summit	R1 260,00
Printing (156,60 + 1 275,00)	R1 431,60
<u>2. SUPPORT AND ENHANCE STRUCTURES OF STUDENT GOVERNANCE</u>	-73 800,90
EC and volunteers' training and development (4 785, 00 + 2 800,00)	R7 585
Water provision (187,20 + 488,28 + 181,20)	R856,68
Irawa (2 251,50 + 3 420,00)	R5 671,50
Editorial Services and printing (3 736,40 + 10 336,31)	R14 072,72
Marketing and branding	R37 950,00
Kovsies' Succession Programme (1 400,00 + 4 765,00)	R6 165,00
Launch of Faculty Academic Councils	R1 500,00
<u>3. POLICY ORIENTATION</u>	-10 049,05
Student Parliament Expenses (1 089,80 + 3 000,00 + 411,00)	R4 500,80
Printing (3 385,80 + 2 162,45)	R 5 548,25
<u>4. INTEGRATION OF OFF-CAMPUS STUDENTS</u>	-3 725,38
Students' study marathon (2 258,40 + 1 466,98)	R3 725,38
<u>5. CULTURE OF HUMAN RIGHTS</u>	-R22 000,38
Safety Week Campaign (2 411,10 + 4 375,00 + 404,48 + 2 016,00 + 12 793,80)	R 22 000,38
<u>6. RECREATION AND ARTS AND CULTURE</u>	-54 425,70
International Students' Braai	R1 739,50

Sport achievements (170,50 + 2 700,00)	R2 870,50
Wheelchair Rally	R2 500,00
Intravarsity (24 500,00 + 3 834,56)	R28 334,56
Green Week (4 731,00 + 400,14)	R5 131,14
Disability Day	R4 900,00
Mr and Miss Environment (615,60 + 450,00 + 4 000,00)	R5 065,60
Printing	R90,00
Entrepreneurs Day (3 089,40+ 705,00)	R3 794,40
7. EXTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS AND PARTNERSHIPS	-R116 258,86
Safety Awareness meeting with stakeholders (55,76 + 2 560,00)	R2 615,76
Mandela Foundation	R 6 800,00
Events with external partners (20 006,20 + 4 451,70 + 9 849,60 + 8 100,00 + 1 500,00 + 6 866,90 + 3 500,00 + 9 803,10 + 9 576,00 + 24 669,60)	R 98 323,10
Benchmarking	R 960,00
Media Awareness	R 7 560,00
8. OPERATIONAL COSTS	-205 052,08
Council catering (1 600,00 + 1 600,00 + 1 718,00 + 2 000,00 + 2 245,46 + 1 600,00 + 1 800,00)	R12 563,46
Equipment (13 708,50 + 17 271,00 + 1 993,86)	R32 973,36
Office support	R1 044,21
Printing (178, 00 + 150,00 + 225,00 + 85,00 + 600,00 + 79,36)	R1 317,36
Transportation (606,64 + 6 500,00 + 440,00 + 1 958,87 + 240,00 + 610,00 + 220,00 + 1 929,35)	R12 504,86
Uniform (11 000,00 + 7 890,00 + 19 266,00)	R38 156,00
Accommodation (33 064,00 + 2 653,00 + 4 205,00 + 7 398,45)	47 320,45
Advance fuel and toll gates (2 000,00 + 793,68)	2 793,68
Conference Registrations	5 000,00
CSRC accommodation (2 594,28 + 945,00)	3 539,28
Stationery (8 278,50 + 701,00)	8 979,50
CSRC Catering (4 500,00 + 4 104,00 + 1 035,00)	9 639,00
Branding (1 150,00 + 2 131,80 + 2 580,00)	5 861,80
Flights (3 174,86 + 6 115,35 + 5 090,41)	R14 380,62
Advertising	R6 242,50
Marketing	R2 736,00
9. ASSOCIATIONS EXPENSES	-51 903,37
Sponsorships from Dean's office (10 000 + 13 384 + 6 326,16 + 1 000)	30 710,16
Sponsorships (2 354,10 + 2 452,31 + 1 000,00 + 4 790,00 + 5 000,00 + 8 427,89 + 1 500,00 + 1 000,00)	R26 524,30
Operations (3 175,20 + 4 248,00 + 2 250,00)	R9 673,20

Equipment (1 598,00 + 843,00)	R2 441,00
Transportation (4 135,27 + 2 245,60 + 5 432,99 + 4 047,58 + 2 000,00 + 1 641,29 + 12 922,72 + 3 884,66 + 4 000 + 2545,14)	R42 855,23
Printing (120,00 + 37,50 + 300,00 + 162,50 + 500,00)	R1 120,00
Aggregate Expenses	-585 623,87
Closing Balance 23 August 2017	R64 376,13

SAFETY OF OFF-CAMPUS STUDENTS



1. Off-campus Safety Awareness Campaign

➤ Objective:

- ✓ In the recent months, off-campus students have been victims of crime either at their student accommodations or on their way from campus to their homes.
- ✓ My vision for this project was to raise the awareness of the university management, the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, the South African Police Services, as well as the community of Bloemfontein, regarding the violence that off-campus students face daily.
- ✓ With this project, it was fitting to have a safety awareness week which took place from 24 July to 27 July 2017. (See Appendix A)



➤ Door-to-Door Drive:

- ✓ During Safety Week, we had a door-to-door drive to off-campus student accommodations.
- ✓ The main objective of the door-to-door drive was to inform students about safety week, the safety dialogue as

well as the symbolic safety awareness march.

- ✓ We drove to as many off-campus student accommodations as we possibly could, so that they would be informed and participate in the safety week.

➤ **Off-campus Safety Dialogue:**

- ✓ The main objective of the dialogue was to invite the management of the University of the Free State as well as the Central University of Technology, SAPS, and the ward councillor of Universitas.
- ✓ The Rector and Vice-Chancellor of the UFS, Prof Peterson, gave a presentation regarding the safety measures that the institution has put into place regarding the safety of off-campus students.
- ✓ The SAPS gave an amazing presentation by providing students with shocking statistics involving students being hijacked, mugged, and murdered. Furthermore, they also provided safety tips that students should be aware of when travelling off-campus.

➤ **Symbolic Safety Awareness March:**

- ✓ This march took place on 27 July 2017 and turned out to be a huge success.
- ✓ Students gathered at the Main Building and marched from the UFS to the Bram Fischer Building, where a memorandum was handed over to the municipality.
- ✓ The Rectors of the UFS and CUT also gave addresses at the Bram Fischer Building.





POLICY AND PARLIAMENT



Policy

In the previous years, various organisations, together with the SRC, submitted memorandums of demand requesting the university to put policies in place that would protect students against gender-based violence, sexual harassment, and unfair discrimination, as well as provide a guideline procedure on how to deal with such cases. Through the policy committee, the office was able to monitor and oversee the development of two important policies:

1. The Draft Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, and Sexual Violence Policy
2. The Draft Anti-Discrimination Policy and Procedures.

These policies were released to the student community for input and they are still to be engaged by all student councils. Consolidated commentary will be sent through by 4 August and these policies will be presented at the university Council meeting. In terms of accountability, the office monitors the functionality of all the SRC offices. An office register is placed at the reception desk and SRC members, who continually fail to attend their office hours without reason, are called in for a meeting and if the behaviour is persistent, the disciplinary committee is informed. The office also established a student parliament.

Policy Development Update

Student Affairs held a policy development summit from 4 to 6 August 2017. The aim of the summit was to take leaders through the process of drafting university policies, up to the level of adoption. The second aim was discussions and contributions to the draft policy document. Over the past months, members of parliament were introduced to the two important policies (Sexual Harassment Policy and Anti-Discrimination Policy) that were up for adoption. There was also general consensus from the house

for a Student Representative Council Constitutional Review as well as the Institutional Transformation Plan.

The Central Student Representative Council and 20 delegates from Student Parliament (10 from Qwaqwa and 10 Bloemfontein) were invited. After the summit, the delegates were to report back to the Student Parliament. After going through the process, Student Parliament would discuss the documents, amend, and adopt them.

Attendees of the summit were divided into four commissions to intensively deliberate on the different policies, namely the Sexual Harassment Policy, Anti-Discrimination Policy, Institutional Student Representative Council Constitution, as well as the Institutional Transformation Plan and Calendar.

On the final day of the summit (Sunday, 6 August), all the commissions came together in one large group consisting of all attendees to present each commission's arguments on the respective policies and to further deliberate on these policies and give opinions in order to compile a final report.

It was then decided that the final report will be distributed on both the Bloemfontein and Qwaqwa Campuses to be discussed and adopted in Parliament. After this has been done, the policies will be submitted to Council and go through external processes for deliberation and adoption.

The summit consisted of delegates from Student Parliament (Qwaqwa and Bloemfontein) and the Central SRC:

Student Parliament:

1. Sixolile Nosi – Speaker (BFN)
2. Kobus Roestoff – Deputy Speaker (BFN)
3. Moyana Arthur – Deputy Speaker (Qwaqwa)
4. Dontsa Samkezi – Secretary (Qwaqwa)
5. Makhura Kamogelo – Member of Parliament (Qwaqwa)
6. Tshabalala Zondile – Member of Parliament *SDASM (Qwaqwa)
7. Kamohelo Thabane – Member of Parliament* ANSOC (BFN)
8. Yolisa Xatasi – Member of Parliament * Promaths Alumni (BFN)
9. Regina Makhothu – Member of Parliament *LGBJQ (Qwaqwa)
10. Katlego Mtshali – LGBTIQ (Qwaqwa)
11. Karabelo Tshabalala – Member of Parliament * EAS (Qwaqwa)
12. Koos Moabi – Member of Parliament * YCLSA (BFN)
13. Liza Mfana – Member of Parliament * EFFSC (BFN)
14. Dimakatso Modise – Member of Parliament * Prime (Qwaqwa)
15. Given Mathebula – Member of Parliament * AMMLO (Qwaqwa)
16. Sophe Magqileni – Member of Parliament * PASMA CP (BFN)
17. Karabo Tlali – Member of Parliament *BMFSC (BFN)

18. Tshabalala Noxola – Member of Parliament * Women’s Desk (Qwaqwa)

19. Mabaso Thobile – Member of Parliament * SADESMO (Qwaqwa)

Central SRC

1. Mwali Njabulo

2. Sikhululekile Luwaca

3. Khulani Mhlongo

4. Mazibuko Polaki

5. Natasha Kabaso

6. Matlatsi Lebona

7. Matlhodi Leteane

8. Ntombi Nhlapo

9. Surprise Manyaiyi

10. Mohau Lesebo

After the summit, the BFN Student Parliament sat on 18 August and engaged with the policy summit report on the different draft policies. Members of Parliament gave their inputs and then adopted the policies. A further delegation of ten student leaders from the BFN Student Parliament was also chosen to continuously work with the different streams of the ITP. Members of Parliament felt that this was necessary to ensure sufficient and continuous student representation with the Integrated Transformation Plan (ITP).

Due to time constraints, Parliament was not able to adopt the document. However, members engaged and made inputs that needed to be consolidated for adoption to take place. A special parliamentary sitting will be scheduled for members to adopt the Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct policies.

The ISRC constitution will also be engaged in the special sitting. Parliament noted that the draft document is due for adoption in March, so sufficient attention should be given to amending the draft.

The successful adoption of the draft policies, as well as the dedication of the members of parliament in affecting these policies, should be noted with great respect. Student Parliament plays a vital role as an advisory, accountable, and legislative body of student governance.

TIMELINE FOR POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

(UFS ADOPTION PROCESS FOR NEW POLICIES LEADING UP TO THE 17 NOVEMBER COUNCIL MEETING)

12 May Document referred to students for the initiation of commentary **by** Student Channels

17 May Doc referred to university communication

15 June Deadline for comments from all channels

19 July Student Affairs HODs Policy Summit **by** Student Affairs

21 July Document referred to SRC for reference and consultation **by** Student Channels

4-6 August **Policy Summit**

1 August SRC (having consulted Parliament) adopts

13 October Submitted to UMC

23 October UMC Meeting

November Submitted to University Council

March 2018 Documents adopted

Parliament

Establishing a legitimate student parliament was not an easy task. The first sitting was held on 5 May, which was followed by a second establishment sitting on 12 May, after members raised concerns on certain aspects of the guiding documents.

5 May establishment sitting

This was the first sitting with the aim to officiate the student parliament as a structure that advises, passes policy, and holds the SRC accountable by leading the election process for the office-bearers of parliament, which would then render the student parliament established and functioning.

The following structures were invited as per the composition of the SRC Constitution:

1. Chairpersons of all registered associations.
2. Chairpersons of all faculty councils.
3. Primes of all university residences.
4. The Student Representative Council.
5. Members of the public.

The invitation allowed 15 seats allocated to members of the public as observers of the proceedings. These seats were limited to 15 because of the limited number (137) of seats in the venue. The official members with voting power (stated from number 1-4) took up 128 seats. All members who were invited received name tags stating that they were members of parliament and they had to sign a register before entering the Senate Hall. This ensured that each member (including the public) had a seat. However, more members of the public joined the sitting.

Below is the programme for the establishment sitting:

1. Opening/welcoming
2. Apologies
3. Declaration of conflict of interest
4. Outlining of the Process
5. Voting
 - 5.1 Announcement of nominees
 - 5.2 Election of Speaker - officiated by the secretary
 - 5.3 Election of Deputy Speaker - officiated by Speaker
6. Closing

The Vice-President, acting as the interim speaker of the sitting until a speaker was elected, did the opening, welcoming all the leaders who were present, as well as members of the public. After this, apologies of members who were unable to attend the sitting and those who sent representatives were read, and then she went on to explain the purpose of the day and how the programme would proceed.

When the speaker arrived at point 3 - Declaration of conflict of interest, it became clear that members were displeased with the academic requirements set in the constitution (guiding document of student parliament) regarding nominees for office-bearers of the parliament: Speaker and Deputy Speaker. The argument presented was that the 60% academic average requirement was not part of the initial guiding document which was submitted to Council and that the inclusion thereof is contentious. With this issue, the members began to also question many other provisions of the guiding document, ultimately leading to them rejecting the guiding document and suggesting that the election procedure either continues without the guiding document being followed or that the elections do not happen.

The speaker, after noting all the concerns and submissions, gave a ruling for the elections to be withheld and a Task team of leaders who wished to challenge the legitimacy of the academic requirement to be appointed. This Task team would then try to find the original guiding document which was presented to Council and compare it to the adopted one in the constitution. While doing this, the Task team would be meeting with management and also seek legal opinion. The Task team would only have five days to try and resolve this problem before the next sitting. The Task team would report back to the sitting, and if the provision was removed, new nominees would be announced and elected at the establishment sitting, which was set to be on 12 May. After the ruling, the speaker adjourned the sitting.

12 May, the second sitting

Before this sitting, the Vice-President had a joint meeting with the Task Team and the office of the Dean of Student Affairs. It became clear during the different meetings that the Student Parliament never submitted any guiding document. No records could be produced to support the allegations. What in fact happened was that the previous

speakers were working on a guiding document, but when we tried to get a copy, no one seemed to have it. As a result, we had no supporting documents to provide when we sought legal opinion, so the Task Team unanimously resolved that the elections should continue without interruption, and once the parliament was established, parliament would work on amending the current guiding document.

On 12 May, the last establishment sitting was held at Stabilis at 14:00. The 51%+ quorum was met, with 68 members (with voting powers) present. A speaker and deputy speaker were elected. The office-bearers are as follows:



Speaker – Ms Nosi



Deputy Speaker – Mr Roestoff



Secretary – Ms Manyaiyi

REGISTRATION

The bulk of registration issues at the beginning of any academic year are fees-related, whether the lack thereof or outstanding debts.

The above is often the most determinant factor with reference to whether or not the registration process as a whole is a successful one or otherwise.

The SRC was faced with registration-related issues ranging from NSFAS; provisional registration; outstanding fees; bursary-allocation issues, etc.

Below is a breakdown of some of the most prominent issues:

1. National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS)

The bulk of our consultations and challenges were related to NSFAS.

Initially, the TSC took a stance that the university management should register all students who applied for NSFAS on a no-fee basis, those in the *poor* and the so-called *missing middle segments*.

Through much back and forth negotiations led by the TSC office, we registered our first victories within the NSFAS conundrum, namely:

- (I) registration of previously funded students at no-fee rate as they awaited their response from NSFAS;
- (II) The no-fee registration of all first-year students who matriculated from quintile 1, 2, and 3 schools;
- (III) The no-fee registration of all first-year students who matriculated from quintile 1, 2 and 3 schools, who had not applied for NSFAS.

Some of the above victories might seem obvious in the sense that some of them were provisions and suggestions by government to universities, however, little of them would have been implemented at the university without the necessary pressure and the fighting that we put in. Testament to this is the fact that not all of the resolutions and provisions made by government for the implementation of universities were adopted.

It would have been easy for the university not to implement any of these without due pressure from the student leaders.

Over 2 000 students were registered through the above efforts of the TSC, through the office of Dialogue and Associations.

2. Provisional registration

This is a provision of Council, and the stipulations for qualification for the 2017 academic year were:

- the student should owe no more than R20 000
- satisfying the above debt threshold, on-campus students would have to pay an upfront fee of R6 750
- satisfying the above debt threshold, off-campus students would have to pay an upfront fee of R1 900
- it was not extended to first-time applicants at the university

The above debt threshold was moved from the R30 000 threshold of 2016 and the qualification of first-time applicants.

This went fairly well, however, not all students were necessarily clear of the prescribed debt threshold, nor had the required upfront funds for the respective on-campus and off-campus payments. This once again meant that the office had to negotiate on behalf of these students to ensure that they registered successfully.

3. Outstanding debt

This is and remains a huge challenge for students; the causes varying greatly.

The most prominent cases within this field were:

(I) Students with outstanding debt, but with secured funding for this year. Some of these students owed in excess of the prescribed R20 000 for provisional registration. We again managed to get many of these students registered, arguing that since they have funding for the year, they're not at risk of increasing their debt with the university.

(II) Another group was that of final-year students, some having only three modules left to complete their degrees; we also managed to get these students registered.

4. Bursary allocation issues

There were various issues, some captured in the point above, with regards to having secured bursaries for the year, but still having outstanding debt, which we managed to get registered.

Some were students who had promises of funding from bursars, but without any payment made by the bursar to the university. Through our office, we managed to secure letters of promise from the respective bursars and provided that to the university's Department of Finance to ensure that these students were registered.

Some students needed to confirm the status of their applications from their prospective bursars. In these cases, the office contacted the bursars to determine the status of the students and push for confirmation where possible.

International students faced the following problems with registration

1. Funding

Funding was the biggest issue faced by international students during the registration period of January-February 2017. This was largely a result of the international student registration fees being doubled from 2016 and students given a month's notice in order to raise the funds. This issue was brought up in meetings with Finance and Rectorate in January. It was resolved that all self-funding international students who could not raise the funds, would be allowed to register by paying at least half the amount of the registration fee. Those who were not able to raise half the amount would be given the opportunity to present their cases to Finance and arrange a payment plan. Wieda McCrae was given as the contact person at Finance and together with the ISC, dealt with the majority of funding issues.

2. Study Permits

Given the situation at the UFS at the end of 2016, with protest action and shutdowns which resulted in administration and academic programmes being pushed forward, confirmation letters were sent out at a later stage than in previous years. This meant that international students could only apply for permits at a later stage than in previous years. This resulted in complaints from a large section of international students whose permits would not be ready in time. This was communicated to the Registrar and the office of International Affairs. An arrangement was subsequently made that students could register with proof (receipt) that they had applied for the permit, given that the permit would be available by 31 March. This arrangement proved to be satisfactory for most affected students.

3. The number of students assisted with payment plans are as follows:

The number assisted with payment arrangements: 204

Number who have already paid: 52

Number who still have to pay: 152

The above three points were the main concerns raised by international students during the registration period, and the arrangements proved to be satisfactory.

DEREGISTRATION

STATEMENT OF THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (SRC) ON DEREGISTRATION, 1 APRIL 2017:

The Student Representative Council has been in engagement with state institutions, civil society, and the University Management. The desired outcome is to ensure that no student is deregistered. On 27 March 2017, the Central SRC President submitted a memorandum of demand to the University Management which stated clearly the position of the students that no student must be deregistered. The SRC notes that out of 5 481 students facing deregistration at the beginning of March, 3 207 have been helped and managed to comply. There are endeavours of collective fundraising and the university has received funding from private donors, including ABSA bank, SETAS, and the office of the Premier. We also note that NSFAS have responded to students who have appealed. Therefore:

-No deregistration will happen on 1 April.

-Deregistration has been extended to 10 April.

-No student who has received NSFAS funding will be deregistered; this includes students who did not receive NSFAS funding in 2016 and owe the UFS money, but who have obtained NSFAS support for 2017.

-The University Management has committed to look into the issue of international students who are facing deregistration.

-The Student Finance Office will report back to the Student Representative Council on 5 April 2017 on the status of our students.

The SRC will:

-Establish a HELP DESK in front of the Administration Building to assist, take grievances, complaints, and also oversee the process.

-The SRC executive will meet the NSFAS office to engage all the NSFAS-related issues as submitted in the mass student engagement.

-The SRC will convene another mass student engagement on 6 April 2017.

The SRC calls for unity of purpose and student leaders to continue making submissions.

From 1 April 2017, the SRC engaged in continuous talks with management and the financial office, and the following was achieved:

Please note the following numbers:

- 30 January 2017 - 5 678
- 10 February 2017 - 5 678

- 24 February 2017 - 5 676
- 3 March 2017 - 5 672
- 10 March 2017 - 5 628
- 17 March 2017 - 4 590
- 24 March 2017 - 4 471
- 31 March 2017 - 2 116
- 3 April 2017 - 1 485
- 5 April 2017 - 1 227
- 6 April 2017 - 1 156
- 7 April 2017 - 933
- 9 April 2017 - 932
- 10 April 2017 - 706
- 11 April 2017 - 496
- 12 April 2017 - 337

Through several robust engagements between the SRC and University Management, the university agreed to subsidise students with a 75% and above pass rate regarding all courses in 2016.

The criteria that were used for allocation of donor funding was as follows:

- Academic performance
- Final-year students
- Likelihood of a student completing the degree
- Financial neediness
- Payment history of the student.

Through a joint partnership between the Rector and Vice-Chancellor, Prof Petersen, and the SRC, R2.1 million was raised. From 19 to 21 April 2017, the SRC ran a consultative process with students at risk of deregistration. Notwithstanding the above-mentioned efforts and achievements, the SRC recognise and is sensitive to the socio-economic conditions that are facing some students who failed to perform at their maximum best and only managed to achieve 50% and above.

The University Management also agreed to:

1. Assist all final-year students who are at risk of deregistration
2. Make financial arrangements with students; this process also accommodated students who owed less than R5 000.
3. Subsidise students at risk, using the NSFAS criteria.

Through continuous engagement with student leaders and University Management, the SRC gained victory for the student community, and no student was deregistered.

- All students who were at risk of de-registration, would be re-registered with immediate effect.

- The SRC would keep the student community informed on the process currently underway to re-register students.

This is an achievement in our student community and we wish to extend our gratitude to student leaders and students for cooperation, patience, and endeavour to ensure that we arrive at the desired outcome.

THUSO DESK



Thuso is a Sesotho word meaning *help*. The goal of the Thuso Desk was to respond to immediate issues of food insecurity, lack of funds to purchase textbooks, and making funding opportunities more accessible to all our students. Therefore, the aim of the Thuso Desk is to ensure access and support for the students of the University of the Free State.

The help desk is a collaboration of various offices which have different designated responsibilities. Duties and responsibilities of the different offices include:

- The office of the SRC First-Generation Students will be in charge of bursaries, scholarships, and the Stationery Bank
- The office of SRC Accessibility and Student Support will be in charge of vacancies
- The office of the SRC Student Development and Environmental Affairs will be in charge of internships
- The office of the SRC Treasurer will be in charge of Food and Textbooks

AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

- An awareness campaign started from 8 May 2017 until 12 May 2017, with the purpose of making first generation more visible and accessible.
- A database was compiled with the following results:
 - 53 first-generation students are in need of mentors
 - 49 normal first-years are also in need of mentors

67 first-years needed financial assistance

MENTORSHIP PROGRAMMES

- Mentorship programmes have been divided into two segments: The Kovsie Succession Programme and the Legacy Programme.

- Applications for seniors who wanted to be mentors were open from 2 May till 10 May 2017. Applications were screened and 49 mentors were then selected, and are now in a WhatsApp group.
- Training for mentors will take place on 1 August and will be conducted by the Postgraduate School and Mohau Lesebo.
- The office is still waiting for a database of all first-years and first-generation students, which was requested via the Student Affairs offices.

EC TRAINING

- In the month of April, we completed training for the executive committee, which took place at EBW on 2 April 2017, and was a huge success.

COUNTING OF TAPS ON CAMPUS

- We have counted the taps on campus and are waiting for signs that will create awareness and visibility of these taps.

RECYCLING

- We have contacted NAMPAK, a recycling company, regarding acquiring recycling bins to start a recycling programme.

MEETING WITH ENVIRONMENTAL RCs

- We met with all the RCs and they agreed to support and take part in the upcoming projects of the office. They also rendered their suggestions for our projects.

MEETING WITH CAREER DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

- We met with the Career Development Office, who will work with the upcoming SRC STUDENT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE, since we came into office at a late stage when they had already planned their year programme.
- Dr Vaal postponed our meeting to next semester.

SRC VOLUNTEERS' TRAINING

- Our office also took part in helping out with the SRC volunteers' training, which was a huge success.

MENTORSHIP PROGRAMMES

- Mentorship programmes have been divided into two segments: The Kovie Succession Programme and the Legacy Programme.
- Applications for seniors who want to be mentors were open from 2 May till 10 May 2017. Applications were then screened and 49 mentors were selected, and are now in a WhatsApp group.
- Training for mentors will take place on 4 August and will be conducted by the Postgraduate School and Mohau Lesebo.
- The office is still waiting for a database of all first-years and first-generation students, which was requested via the Student Affairs offices.

4 August 2017: Entrepreneurs' Day

- We had an Entrepreneurs' Day which was a huge success.
- Different student entrepreneurs took part by marketing their businesses on campus, which was the main aim of the event.
- Pictures will be attached.





7-11 August 2017: Green Week

- Monday: Water awareness day
- Tuesday: Wear green day
- Wednesday: Women's Day
- Thursday: Recycled material art exhibition
- Friday: Plant a tree, and Mr and Miss Environment





11 August 2017: Mr and Ms Environment

- It was the biggest event we had this term, and was a huge success
- Residences participated and supported the event

Pictures will also be attached with this document

Green Week 2017

Wear something **green** this week
to promote environmental awareness.

You are hereby invited to the Tree Planting ceremony at Rooiwalb Friday

ARTEXHIBITION - Thursday 14:00 on the Thekennel Bridge.
We welcome you to admire art pieces created out of **recyclable materials**
made by Kivsie's very own.

Mr & Miss Environment : Friday the 11th at Coblares
18:00 (R10 entree fee)

UNIVERSITY OF THE
FREE STATE
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE
VREESTAAT
UNIVERSITATI YA
FREESTATA



UFS·UV
SRC
SR

Student Development and Environmental Affairs
For more information: MthethwaSP@ufs.ac.za

SRC FUND



The University of the Free State is no exception from other universities that are still struggling to win the battle against the financial exclusion of students. The Student Representative Council liaise closely with students in order to understand the needs and challenges facing the students they represent. The SRC play an important role in cooperative governance of universities. Through a commitment to establish access to higher education, the UFS SRC raised R1,3 million in 2016 to assist students from disadvantaged backgrounds with up-front payments. Consistently, the sub-council structures of the SRC continue to raise funds for the cause through residence leadership and student associations. The objectives of the SRC Fund are divided into four main aims:

1. Fundraising Initiatives

- Kovies' Biggest Braai
- Business Breakfast
- Right 2 Learn Campaign
 - Right 2 Learn Challenge

2. Partnership Opportunities

- Alumni, former and current SRC members, business and government members to form relations.

3. Entrepreneurship Development

- Entrepreneurship Day

4. Creation of employment opportunities

Under the SRC Fund, fundraising initiatives have been documented and will be implemented in the second semester, with reference to the SRC calendar in the annexure.

BUSINESS BREAKFAST

On 4 August 2017, the SRC hosted a business breakfast for the business community and the University community to launch the SRC Fund. The SRC used this opportunity to raise funds for a textbook bursary. The student body remains true to its constitutional mandate, which is to raise funds for the student community. In support of the vision to ensure access, support and success, an oversight committee will be created to ensure sustainability for the SRC Fund and all SRC fundraising initiatives.



KOVSIÉ BIGGEST BRAAI



Date - 12/08/17

Venue - Red Square area (Main Building)

Description

Kovsie's Biggest Braai (KBB) was the University of the Free State's first social cohesion braai organised by the SRC of 2017, in collaboration with the International Students Association (ISA). It was set up in the format of a college braai challenge where the five colleges on the Bloemfontein Campus were competing for the inaugural KBB trophy. To complement the challenge, platforms for drinks (non-alcoholic and alcoholic) were set up, along with a stage for music throughout the day, as well as student entrepreneur tables.

Overview

Kovsies' Biggest Braai was planned since April 2017 by a team comprising seven SRC members and three ISA members (annexure). The event was hosted at the Red Square area in front of the Main Building in collaboration with a number of stakeholders, which included:

- Xerox – sponsored all the posters used for marketing, as well as the vouchers used as currency.
- KovsieGear – sponsored T-shirts worn by the organising team, task force, MCs and used as promotional give-away. KovsieGear also sponsored 100 KBB-branded matches to promote the event.
- Coca-Cola – supplied stalls and sun umbrellas used on the day and brought their sound truck for the activation.
- Traumerei UFS – organised the benches and ran the alcoholic drinks bar.
- Office of international Affairs – originally sponsored funding for a collapsible fence, but was then used to pay for sound after the fence idea was rejected by top management.
- Facilities Management – assisted with on-the-ground planning, health and safety compliance, mobile toilets, as well as clean-up service during and after the event.

- Student Affairs – personnel assisted with planning, organising, and purchases for the event.
- Creative Kilowatt – gave a 50% discount on stage and sound.
- Protection Services – provided security for the money station and extra manpower to monitor the proceedings.

The event largely surpassed the expectations of the organising team in terms of turnout, which exceeded the expected target of 1 500 people to at least 4 000 people. The programme was initially supposed to start at 10:00, but due to delays only started at 12:00. However, the proceedings went on smoothly without much incidence, except for one girl who fainted, but fortunately paramedics were on call and she was taken care of.

KBB was organised as a social cohesion event with a long-term fundraising element. The fundraising element for this year's event was to a greater extent scratched, given that there was no gate fee, products were sold almost at cost price, and the corporate sponsors that came on board did not contribute financially but rather provided resources, as mentioned above. This meant that the corporate packages mentioned in the proposal, were not used. The reason for this was that KBB was the first event of its kind, and getting buy-in was difficult, given the fact that it was a new concept. The team therefore focused more on delivering the concept of KBB as a long-term concept that will form part of the Koviesie tradition and calendar. The response has been phenomenal both from students who have requested through various platforms that it become a yearly event, and staff, including the Vice-Chancellor (present) who endorsed the function as a yearly event, which was one of the goals of KBB.

Challenges

In the planning and implementation phase, the team was faced with a number of challenges. The following were some of the main challenges:

- Sponsorship- The team sent proposals to about 15 companies for sponsorships and partnering on the project. Of the 15 only eight responded, with five giving positive feedback and four sticking with the project till the end.
- Venue- The initial suggested venue was cricket field 1, which was communicated as the recreational field. After lengthy deliberations and meetings with KoviesieSport and Facilities, the venue was later moved to the Red Square.
- Funding- Securing financial support was another challenge faced by the team, which meant the SRC had to carry a huge chunk of the costs even after sponsorship.

- Marketing- The marketing campaign started later than initially planned, and the plan was therefore not implemented as much as the team would have liked.
- Voucher system- KBB used a centralised pay point which worked with vouchers as currency. The problem occurred with the monitoring system of the vouchers and monitoring of the meat after it was delivered to the respective colleges. The team did not have an effective system to counter misuse and the loopholes were only discovered after the event.
- Collapsible fence- The team wanted to erect a collapsible fence to assist with monitoring and access control, but top management thought it would give a bad image, given the location of the venue. However, the open-access setting worked out in the end.

Recommendations

Going forward to next year's KBB, there are a number of recommendations that the team of 2017 suggests to the next team that will be planning KBB:

- Date- KBB happened on the weekend before test week, which meant that a number of potential attendees did not pitch because of upcoming test week. Therefore, the incoming team must look at the calendar for the year, considering all the factors, i.e. academic calendar, season, and general UFS calendar to choose the most appropriate date.
- Sponsorships- Given the platform that has been set with the first KBB, proposals for corporates must be sent out early in the year and contracts signed to avoid last minute pull-outs as happened this year with one of the sponsors pulling out in the last week.
- Partners- Agreements and terms of partnership with all potential partners seeking to benefit from the function should be set in writing prior to the event.
- Venue- The Red Square must not change as venue for KBB, as it provides the ideal location for a social-cohesion event, given its strategic location on campus.
- Qwaqwa and South Campus- The next team must try and get the other two campuses involved with KBB. One of the ways to do this is by adding at least two Qwaqwa Campus and one South Campus KBB stall.
- Staff- The buy-in from staff was not as great as it could have been. Therefore, the next team must ensure that it sends out invites to all departments at the Bloemfontein Campus to encourage departmental and general staff participation.
- Stalls- The student entrepreneur stalls were isolated and should be located in a more strategic setting among the prime attractions, namely meat, stage, and drinks. Provision can also be made to increase the variety of KBB by incorporating other smaller food and item stalls from within Bloemfontein to encourage staff participation.

- Voucher and monitoring system- There should be a member of the task team at every college stall to track the movement and flow of sales.
- Marketing- The marketing of KBB must begin at least a month before the scheduled date, using the marketing strategy attached in the proposal, which means that all major performances and sponsors must be secured by then. This will allow the team to have a clear picture of how they will set up on the day well in advance, so as to avoid any surprises on the day.
- Purchases- All relevant purchase orders must be secured at least two weeks before the scheduled date to avoid last minute errands.

The above are suggestions and recommendations to the incoming team, based on our experience in planning the event and reflecting on the things we could have done better. The social cohesion element must remain the biggest element of KBB, therefore interaction within and among Kovies must be encouraged, which the team believes will play a vital role in breaking the social barriers that are currently encountered at the UFS.

Acknowledgements

As project leader, I would like to acknowledge and thank the following stakeholders without whose support I believe KBB would not have been possible:

1. The team from ISA for coming with this initiative, with special mention to Andre Kwenda (Chairperson), who was my deputy on the organising team
2. Martie Nortje (KovieGear) – gave the team their first endorsement with the T-shirts and matches, which was a great boost to the morale of the organising team
3. Tertia Wilkins (Xerox) – sponsorship of posters and vouchers
4. Student Affairs – their advice and support ensured that everything worked out in the end. Special mention to Rethabile Motseki and Mojaki who, along with the organising team, worked tirelessly from the planning phase right to the end
5. Bulelwa Moikwatlhai (office of International Affairs) – assisted with planning from the beginning, and helped in securing funds for the collapsible fence
6. Ria Deysel (Director: Facilities) – ensured that we had the right support in terms of compliance requirements and needs
7. Task force- the team working at the different drink stalls on the day and assisted in setting up the Red Square area

8. Organising team- last, but definitely not least, a mention to the task team that worked tirelessly over three and a half months to make KBB a reality, meeting at least once a week for two of those



POSTGRADUATE



Office of the Postgraduate Student Council for the term 9 January to 31 March

Higher degrees committee meeting

The chairperson represented the postgraduate students during the higher degrees committee meeting on 15 February. The agenda was to discuss the progress of postgraduate students and the way forward.

Appointment of new members

Posters and flyers were sent out in hard copy and soft copy on social media and email to invite interested candidates to apply for membership into the council for the 2017 term. Applications closed on 31 January 2017 and short-listing of candidates by the 2017 chairperson and three 2016 EC members took place on Thursday 2 February. Interviews then followed from 8 March to 13 March.

Training

Training of all members took place on Saturday 4 March at the Postgraduate School. Members were also informed of their positions in the council in terms of portfolios and expectations. All portfolios had to plan their activities for the year as well as the costs which were to be presented at the strategic planning session.

Strategic planning

Strategic planning took place on Saturday 11 March at the Postgraduate School. All portfolios presented their plans and all members gave their input. Together, the council members came up with a year plan/calendar.

Postgraduate students welcoming function

In collaboration with the Postgraduate School, the PGSC held a welcoming ceremony for postgraduate students on Monday 13 March, where both staff and students attended in numbers. The PGSC chairperson was the MC at the event.

Annual general meeting

The AGM was held on 23 March at the Equitas Building. The purpose was to find out from students what they are struggling with and assess how the council could intervene.

National 3 Minute Thesis competition

The PGSC, in collaboration with the Postgraduate School, hosted the National 3MT on 24 March from 11:00 to 15:00 in the Equitas Auditorium. At this event, the chairperson of the PGSC acted as an MC. Participants were provincial winners from other South African universities, and both winners were from UCT.

Mediating in registration process for postgraduate students

There were successes with helping research master’s students to register, those with outstanding tuition fees as well as those who had outstanding registration fees. However, there was no success with postgraduate diploma students. At the moment, the postgraduate diplomas and certificates are not assisted by the Postgraduate School; they are neither part of the beneficiaries for free research M and D tuition fee bursaries, nor can they apply for NRF honours bursaries.

Postgraduate Office from 1 April to 30 May

The following report will be divided according to portfolios in the Postgraduate Council.

Chairperson’s Report

Progress <i>Past month</i> DONE! ↓	Problems <i>Open issues</i> CHALLENGES! ↓	Plans <i>Suggestions/Solutions</i> TO-DO! ↓
Getting all useful external research and funding tools running at the university Creating conference opportunities for all PGSC members Assisting individual students	Communication between PGSC and management on important issues is delayed unnecessarily Funding for projects Funding for individual students	Visiting DUT for benchmarking purposes

What lies ahead?

- Nelson Mandela Day project: Tswelopele Correctional Service
- Women’s Day project: Correctional service
- 2nd Academic session
- Heritage Day project
- Postgraduate students end-of-year function

Academic Report

Progress <i>Past month</i> DONE! ↓	Problems <i>Open issues</i> CHALLENGES! ↓	Plans <i>Suggestions/Solutions</i> TO-DO! ↓
<p>Academic session on: <i>decolonising of the curriculum</i></p> <p>The proposal for free internet for Hons and PGDip students has been sent to VR research, the proposal will serve at Rectorate for approval.</p>	<p>The information session had to be postponed to allow more speakers, as Prof Corli felt that she could not present alone on the matter of free honours registration</p>	<p>Information session to clarify the issue of free Hons registration</p>
<p>What lies ahead?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information session to clarify the issue of free registration • Academic session 		

International Affairs Report

Progress <i>Past month</i> DONE! ↓	Problems <i>Open issues</i> CHALLENGES! ↓	Plans <i>Suggestions/Solutions</i> TO-DO! ↓
<p>Inquiries on collaboration between the postgraduate and undergraduate international students towards the Heritage Day project.</p>	<p>Not sure whether to contact people from VFS (with regards to visa issues) or not, since we haven't received a plan on Heritage Day from Takudzwa Nyamunda's side yet.</p>	<p>Frequent communication between both portfolios (International Affairs PGSC and International Affairs SRC)</p> <p>Thinking about the possibility of offering a separate information session to address visa issues/police clearances (not including it as part of the Heritage Day Project).</p> <p>Working with Ms Niemann in the Office of International Affairs to materialise information session.</p>
<p>What lies ahead? Heritage Day Programme Information session for visas/police clearance inquiries</p>		

Social Media and Liaison Report

Progress <i>Past month</i> DONE! ↓	Problems <i>Open issues</i> CHALLENGES! ↓	Plans <i>Suggestions/Solutions</i> TO-DO! ↓

<p>Inquiry made on the necessary documents needed in order to have a slot at Kovsie FM</p> <p>Working on the posters for Nelson Mandela Day project</p>	<p>Members not pulling their weight (not responding to messages or assisting with portfolio activities)</p>	<p>Working on Kovsie FM proposal.</p> <p>All council members to come up with possible topics to be discussed during the Kovsie FM shows.</p> <p>Suggestion boxes should be put at the school and the SRC Building to assist students with queries (Portfolio members currently working on this).</p> <p>Geographical survey to locate postgraduate students (where they live: off/on campus). Council members to come up with questions for the survey.</p> <p>Work will be equally distributed among portfolio members to avoid just a few people doing the bulk of the work.</p>
<p>What lies ahead? Nelson Mandela Day Project Securing a spot at Kovsie FM</p>		

Treasury and Funding Report

Progress <i>Past month</i> DONE! ↓	Problems <i>Open issues</i> CHALLENGES! ↓	Plans <i>Suggestions/Solutions</i> TO-DO! ↓
<p>Drafted a funding proposal</p> <p>Ongoing discussing with Absa to enlighten students on available scholarship and bursary packages available.</p> <p>Preparing for an information session, to be held when posted schedule is finalised.</p>	<p>Info on an estimated number of postgraduate students with financial challenges</p> <p>Reluctance from contact persons to bridge the university's partnership with Absa by revealing sensitive information to students, therefore suggesting that the information be provided by the university.</p>	<p>To be submitted as soon as it has been sent to the EC and confirmed as credible.</p> <p>Meetings with the SRC Finance office on ongoing financial assistance provided to students.</p> <p>Information session about funding coming soon. This is planned to go along with the Academic portfolio event.</p>
What lies ahead? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publicising funding information • Taking part in the information session as a medium to share vital info on bursaries and scholarships. • Submission of funding proposals. 		

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



Welcome Function

The International Student Council hosts an annual welcome function for first-entry international students. This project is aimed at creating a platform for all first-year international students to meet over a meal. To be given an opportunity to meet with some key senior staff members on campus and to informally meet staff members of the International Office, as well as the Dean of Student Affairs. To create an environment for direct interpersonal contact between students and staff.

The main goals of the project are:

- Unite people from different backgrounds
- Increasing accessibility
- Using an informal platform to create accessibility to staff, fellow students, and student leaders

The 2017 function was held on 18 February at the Rag farm.

The goals and objectives were achieved by:

- a) Inviting the Dean of Student Affairs, Registrar (was unable to attend), and Chairperson of the TSC to speak to international students on student life and opportunities available at the UFS
- b) Having live performances to assist in making the environment more welcoming and exciting
- c) Dinner was served and social interaction was encouraged

Attendance was set up for 150 students and at least 140 students were in attendance. Attendance was not counted.



Facilitate City Tour

This again is an annual project in collaboration with the Office of International Affairs. For 2017, the tour was set for 25 February. The objective of this programme is to introduce new students to Bloemfontein and its surrounds; and most importantly, assist students with their adjustment into the South African and Bloemfontein culture. Through the programme, the students would learn more about the South African and Bloemfontein history, natural resources, social customs, religions, art, political structures, as well as set manners, expected behaviour, and unspoken rules. By taking part in this programme, we hope the students will be intrigued to read up on the country's present day problems and current national issues, which might help to adjust in the new surroundings more quickly. To create an environment for direct interpersonal contact between students and staff.

The main goals of the project are:

The city tour allows the UFS an opportunity to build new alliances and to continue to strengthen existing networks and source new partnership initiatives, which are all

aimed at advancing the partnership landscape of the UFS. The city tour will promote exposing students to new knowledge forms and cultural experiences.

The tour took students to:

- The War Museum
- The Literature Museum
- The Wesleyan school church
- Old Presidency house museum
- Nelson Mandela statue - Naval Hill
- Street Corner Tshisa nyama

The tour budgeted for 60 students and 45 students arrived. There were no incidences to report. The costs of the tour were covered by the Office of International Affairs.



- As a council, we have engaged in a number of programmes via the office and international associations to increase participation and integration of international students on campus:
 - International student welcome function (17 February 2017)
 - City tour (25 Feb)
 - Dialogue session (March)
 - Crowd Traumerei (ISA) (April)
 - Zimsa braai (May)

The above events were also used to increase our social media presence and participation, which has almost doubled since the beginning of the year.

- The International Student Council has also become more integrated in the sense that it is now engaging and supporting initiatives from other associations in the council and has therefore established a rather solid working relationship. However, it still needs to be worked on through more collective initiatives.
- Engagement and accountability has been accomplished by introducing a dialogue session for each semester, where the chair of the council as well as association chairs give a report and feedback to the international student body. The first dialogue session was in February, and another is scheduled for the end of August before we step down.
- In terms of the grooming system, I have not had much success because of other engagements which have taken up my time.
- Launched International Student Council on Qwaqwa Campus.

Recommendations

Advice to the incoming Chairperson of the International Student Council:

- **International student fees-** The issue of international student fees has been discussed at various platforms, including the ITP, Parliament, and top management, but as yet nothing have been put to paper in terms of policy. I therefore recommend that the incoming chair continues to pursue this pressing issue until pen is put to paper.
- **Council-** The International Student Council is still divided on the basis of association by nationality, and that has resulted in a failure to engage in collective projects as a council. Therefore, I believe it is one of the areas that need to be worked on so as to get a united council that engages on issues of all international students as a collective.
- **Kovsies Biggest Braai-** It was an initiative of the International Student Council and must in future be organised by the ISC office as a tradition, with the assistance of other SRC offices.
- **Dialogue-** It is important that the new council hosts a dialogue session to reflect on the work done with international students, as well as get direction for the upcoming year of 2018 with regards to projects and ideas for the year. It is important that the council continuously

engages and encourages participation and integration of international students into student life by grooming young leaders from first year to take over in student leadership positions in future.

- **First years-** Building on the point above, the council must look into the possibility of having a first-year mentoring programme for international students by giving first-years exposure to student life and leadership.

RESIDENCES



ON-CAMPUS RESIDENCES

The scope of duties for SRC On-campus Residences mainly consisted of providing support to students who had problems with placement regarding both returning and first-time entering students, residence deposit fees, as well as returning students who needed to be placed back in their residences or were unfairly replaced.

a. Placement of Students

The placement of students was of paramount importance to the TSC, especially with regard to first-time entering students.

I handled the matter by firstly ensuring that the Executive Committee knew the procedure and contact details of everyone at HRA. We, as an office, had a spreadsheet of students who came looking for accommodation, and I would send HRA five names of students every second day – ranked in order of urgency regarding the circumstances of each student.

We would constantly ask the primes for availability of beds and we would advise each and every prime to alert Mr Badenhorst, who is the chief placement officer, of open beds and of the students in need, and in this way we assisted students who needed accommodation as opposed to those who just wanted or preferred it.

b. Deposit fees for Residences

The first hurdle with regards to the deposit fee involved first-time entering NSFAS students. We raised this problem with the Department of Finance, as it was a fact that NSFAS-funded students, by virtue of them being on the bursary, are unable to pay the cash deposit of R1 920.

At a Rectorate meeting held in the beginning of the semester, it was decided that NSFAS students would not be required to pay this deposit to secure their placement in residences. From now on, HRA would take this money when the bursary paid out. This was a big victory, as many students were assisted in this regard.

The second hurdle was privately-funded students who could not afford the deposit and consequently risked losing their places in residences. The problem students faced was that the deposit was too expensive, especially in light of the fact that they had to pay registration fees that were well over R12 000. We encouraged students to approach their residence structures to assist them in making personal arrangements for finance.

According to the feedback given by primes, no student has lost their placement because they could not pay this deposit.

A suggested permanent solution which is found in recommendations for approval is that since the deposit is inclusive of residence fees and not just a key deposit, the university could possibly separate the two amounts. This would leave the deposit at R850, which is considered a more inclusive amount to the general student body.

We (together with the office of SRC Day Residence) managed to set the ball rolling for reducing the amount that students have to pay to reserve their residence space at the beginning of the year. This year, it stood at R1 950 and we managed to have a gentlemen's agreement that we seek to solidify. The proposal is that the students are required to only pay R950, and I have already engaged Mr Naidoo, who was the chief operational officer at the time, and now it rests with Mr Koetaan to table it at the Council meeting.

c. Placement of returning students

We received senior students on conditional placement as well as those unfairly replaced.

We received three female students and seven male students on conditional placement, of whom all three females and two males were placed back in their residences through constant communication with the primes, as well as HRA. The remaining three male students were referred to the office that deals with commuter students, and they assisted them in finding the best possible private accommodation.

d. Policy

The Executive Committee of day residences also decided on a date where we will take in all policies that need to be changed. This will be in conjunction with the SRC Transformation, and of course the office of Day Residences. We seek to look at all policy documents, especially those that are outdated, and revise those we can, and provide recommendations for those we cannot.

e. **Primes**

The office also helped and assisted college primes in cementing their role in Open Day, as there was a bit of a communication breakdown between the relevant stakeholders and the said governance structure. The required floor plan and judging criteria were created and this was distributed to the college primes, residence primes, and the people in charge of the Open Day. In future, we seek to actually reinforce their identity and role in the bigger picture of the student governance and student body at large, because it appears that they exist in isolation at this point.

In collaboration with the SRC Day Residences and Commuter Students, we hold bi-monthly prime council meetings and I also attend Residence Head meetings. In these meetings, we established that perhaps on-campus residence primes should hold a voice in 15% of their first-time entering residents. This concession came from the fact that Open Day seemed to be merely a stage play and residences were demotivated to participate. This idea has been tabled with HRA and I am still awaiting feedback.

OFF-CAMPUS RESIDENCES

1. Day Residences

➤ **Objective:**

My main objective was to market day residences as much as possible to off-campus students, so that they experience the two weeks of RAG as well as a well-rounded student life through the respective day residences.

➤ **Challenges:**

First-year students who were affiliated with the respective day residences could not afford first-year packages. I proposed to the primes of the day residences to allow those first-years to register under the residences, regardless of whether they could afford the packages or not, so that they also have the same opportunity as other first-years to experience campus life.

The office of the Dean of Students compensated the respective day residences who gave first-year packages to those students facing financial difficulties.

2. Private Accommodation/Commuter Students

➤ Objective:

- ✓ Ensure the existence of a list of affordable accommodation around the perimeter of the institution.
- ✓ Ensure private accommodation to students who are on bursaries and funding schemes.
- ✓ Ensure accreditation of all student houses.
- ✓ Control safety of off-campus students.
- ✓ Off-campus safety awareness campaign.

➤ Challenges:

- ✓ There was an influx of students who were on bursaries that needed accommodation. Initially, on-campus accommodation would be ideal for those students, but under the circumstances, off-campus accommodation was their only option. Off-campus accommodation requires upfront rental payment every month and unfortunately those students had no means to pay the required amount.
- ✓ Student houses are becoming less safe.

➤ Outcome:

- ✓ Students who were not on bursaries were assisted in finding affordable off-campus accommodation. Students who were on bursaries were placed in residences on campus, which was more ideal for their circumstances.

- ✓ I have had meetings with the municipality and other university stakeholders regarding the issue of accrediting student houses. The task is still at hand as we are still engaging the issue. However, a positive outcome will be achieved soon.
- ✓ Regarding the safety of off-campus students, the South African Police Service has agreed to patrol outside campus in accordance with the times whereby the facilities on campus close, which is 22:00. This will ensure that students walk home safely to their houses.
- ✓ The University of the Free State, together with my office, have started the process of accrediting off-campus student houses. Student-house owners were urged to register their property/properties by 31 July 2017 for accreditation purposes.
- ✓ The University of the Free State, together with my office, hosted a safety awareness campaign for off-campus students from 24 to 28 July 2017.

3. Primes Council

➤ Objective:

- ✓ The first Prime's Council was held on 19 February 2017. The main objective was to ensure that there was complete transparency between the SRC and the Prime's Council regarding the issue of registration as well as accommodation. It was my responsibility to ensure that the primes were updated regularly regarding those issues.
- ✓ Primes assisted a lot with on-campus accommodation to those students who were in dire need of accommodation.
- ✓ The Prime's Council continues to meet every second week to discuss matters at hand and to try and resolve issues as effectively as possible.
- ✓ SRC Guardianship document.

➤ Challenges:

- ✓ The communication channel between my office and the primes often gets interrupted, and as a result the residences don't receive accurate information.
- ✓ SRC Guardianship only took effect in May. The SRC of 2017 came into office in March. This meant that the residences only had a short space of time to get to know them, and as a result they were not keen on advocating the SRC guardianship process.

4. Open Day

➤ **Objective:**

- ✓ My main goal for Open Day was to ensure that day residences get as much exposure as possible in order to attract members.
- ✓ In this regard, on-campus residences would assist day residences with marketing in order to attract members and also to ensure that off-campus students are aware of all the opportunities that day residences offer.

➤ **Challenges:**

- ✓ The planning for Open Day was partially taken away from my portfolio and given to the college primes.
- ✓ Therefore, Open Day was in the form of colleges, which meant that day residences didn't get the opportunity to market themselves.

➤ **Outcome:**

- ✓ Although Open Day was in the form of colleges, residences were still requested to do their war cries for the purpose of social cohesion.
- ✓ The Spirit Cup was then awarded to the residence with the best war cry.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION AND CAMPUS ACTIVITIES



ARTS AND CULTURE

Stagedoor Report

Thirty residences participated in the 2017 Stagedoor, including on- and off-campus residences. The residences were paired, which resulted in 15 groups participating. Fortunately this year no group pulled out of the competition. Students wanting to take part in Stagedoor but living off campus were provided with transport for the duration of the rehearsals.

The SRC would like to congratulate the following residences:

1st Roosmaryn and Sonnedou

2nd place ConLaures and Beyers Naude

3rd Marjolein and Legatum

Serenade Report

The office of Arts and Culture held several meetings with the Senior Office: Arts and Culture, as it has been taking responsibility for the office prior to the election of the SRC. The meetings were to keep the SRC Arts office up to date with events that have occurred, and the ones which are still scheduled. The outcomes of those meetings are as follows:

1. Senior Office: Arts and Culture, together with the SRC Arts and Culture office, agreed to work collectively on Serenade (which is now a Sing-off). The Senior Office had already set the rules of the competition, and it committed to financially assisting the SRC Arts and Culture office for the singing competition (rules will be attached in annexure D).

2. Around April, my office received a call from Pretoria SRC proposing to have a National Serenade Competition. Please find attached the communication between my office and the office of Pretoria SRC in the annexure.
3. There is ongoing communication between McDonald's, my office, and Head office.

Archives Project

1. After the strategic planning session, the office of Arts and Culture was given the task to ensure that the Archives Project become a success.
2. I had several meetings with Mrs Albie Louw, who committed to assist my office with a certain amount. Attached herein is what my office has to pay and the amount for the overall project.

Sing-off competition Report

Special thanks to

- Sponsor: McDonald's Bloemfontein
- Arts and Culture Head Office
- RC Arts and Culture of all residences
- EC SRC Arts and Culture
- And Kowsie Student Community

From the past to the present, the future is always what we hope to see. In 2017 Sing-off we were celebrating being proudly South African and looking into the future, because life is constantly evolving; we live, we learn and finally upgrade to be better individuals.

OBJECTIVES OF THE EVENT

- Students develop a background in music and musicianship that prepares them for a wide range of further educational and vocational activities which include music as a component.

- To evaluate and reflect on musical achievement and creativity in a constructive and educationally-focused way.
- To encourage the study and performance of music written and arranged by South African composers.
- Foster social cohesion through music.

Motto

“the future is all that matters”

Rules of the competition were:

1. Each group was restricted to a maximum of 25 registered students of the UFS.
2. The competition took place in three categories, namely Male, Female, and Co-ed Groups.
3. Residences were allowed to combine in case of lack of participation (or any other reasons that might force them to do so) to form a group, whether male, female, or co-ed groups.
4. There was no limit on the number of off-campus students (also known as ‘inskakels’) allowed to participate. Students not attached to a city residence could audition for any on- or off-campus residence.
5. The maximum age limit for participation was 24 and/or any first-year student, regardless of age, could participate in the competition in his/her first year of study for a first undergraduate degree at the UFS.
6. Members of the LGBTQIA could participate with the serenade group of their identification.
7. There were no specific rules as to the repertoire of the competition; however, a complete sing-off show had to consist of at least 3 South African languages.
8. Each category had its own prescribed song, i.e. Male, Female, and Co-ed groups were encouraged to perform the song in their own original way, and the songs would be judged for Best Prescribed Song Prize.
9. Each group was also encouraged to compose and write their own original song in any language as preferred by the group. The song lyrics and musicality (how it was performed) were then judged for the Best Own Composition Prize.

Groups that participated in the event on Thursday (Sing-off Rotations)

- Arista and Khayalami
- Karee
- Armentum and Emily
- Kestell
- Villa Bravado
- Imperium
- Soetdoring
- Harmony
- Kagiso
- Madelief
- Vishuis
- Roosmaryn

Groups that won on Thursday to participate in the finals on Saturday 19 August 2017 were:

- Harmony
- Madelief
- Armentum and Emily
- Soetdoring
- Kagiso
- Villa Bravado
- Vishuis
- Imperium

Winners

Males: Villa Bravado

Female: Harmony

Co-ed: Armentum and Emily

Overall Winner: Armentum and Emily

Challenges of the project.

1. The competition was introduced to residences very late and it was not easy for some residences to cope, especially financially.

2. Lack of participation which forced many residences to withdraw.

3. Some residences had the problem of their RC Culture resigning.

4. Lack of communication.

4. Shuttle service for off-campus students.



SPORTS

a) RC Meetings

The Sports Office had one meeting with RC Sport this term:

Date: 21 April 2017

Venue: SRC Hall

Time: 13:00

- The attendance of the meeting was fairly low. However, the assumption was that the RC Sport would send a representative should they be occupied in classes or tests.
- The main purpose of the meeting was to present the vision for the term to the RCs and to also get a general feeling of some of the issues they had been experiencing.
- RCs were briefed on the progress of the office to date.
- They raised problems experienced per sporting codes, which then received attention.
- A proposal was tabled about how often such meetings should be held. It seemed at the time that no present RC Sport had a problem with Fridays at 13:00; however, it was agreed that it may change if any RC Sport gives a valid reason as to why Fridays at 13:00 is not suitable. A resolution was never taken, thus I made use of emails and WhatsApp groups to provide information to RCs instead of calling a meeting to address a single issue for 5 minutes and then adjourning.

b) RC Sport Projects which were sponsored

The one project I was able to provide assistance to, was the Tswelopele 3rd Annual Chess Tournament.



For the above tournament, my office was able to provide chess sets and clocks to the residence.

c) Open Day Spirit Cup



- The following residences participated (in order of performance list):
- Vergeet My Nie
- Veritas
- Welwitschia
- Marjolein
- Villa Bravado
- Beyers Naude
- Legatum
- Kestell
- Arista
- Roosmaryn
- ConLaures
- Madelief
- Wag 'n Bietjie
- Kagiso
- Khayalami
- Akasia
- Karee
- Soetdoring
- Tswelopele
- Outeniqua
- Harmony

The residences were judged using the following criteria (with 10 the maximum points to be awarded)

- Group Involvement
- Creativity
- Diversity (Language)
- Musicality
- Overall Impression

The winners were as follows:

Female Category	Harmony
Male Category	Beyers Naude
Co-ed Residences	ConLaures

- **Harmony was the overall winner of the Spirit Cup 2017**



The annual event between the two campuses was very successful, with the following sporting codes participating:

- Soccer (Male and Female)
- Basketball (Male and Female)
- Volleyball (Male and Female)
- Chess (Mixed)
- Netball (Female)
- Table Tennis (Mixed)

The day was divided into High-performance matches for University 1st teams, and Recreation, for Residence teams.

The results were as follows for High-performance



Bloemfontein Campus won in netball, both soccer matches, chess, both basketball matches, and Qwaqwa secured a win in the ladies' Volleyball match.

Recreational Matches



We would like to thank all the residences for honouring the invitation extended to them based on their performances from the 1st semester leagues, to make this day a success through not only participation on the fields, but also coming out in numbers to support their fellow Kovsies.

d) Special Congratulations



- Kovsies Football Club who gained promotion to the semi-professional Free State ABC Motsepe League.
- Noxolo Magudu who got a call-up to the Banyana Banyana training camp;
- Khanyisa Chawane (captain of the side) and Lefebre Rademan who got call-ups to form part of the Baby Proteas (Netball U20 side) representing South Africa in Botswana at the youth champs;
- Khanyisa Chawane and Tanya Mostert got call-ups to form part of the Senior Netball national team training camp held in July;
- Kwenzo Blose and Rewan Kruger who were part of the Junior Bok squad representing South Africa at the U20 World Championship;
- Louzanne Coetzee who shattered her T11 5 000 m world record again; and
- Wayde van Niekerk who recently broke the 300 m world record.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE NEXT SRC SPORT

- Expanding intravarsity to not only include sport, but also cultural events and indigenous games in order to appeal to more students.
- Recognition of Frisbee as an official university sport (already engaged Head of KovieSport on this, continuously following up, and be in contact with the frisbee team by giving them updates on the progress of getting them recognised).
- Focus on ladies' cricket development (engage with Kyle Pretorius from Kovie Cricket)
- Participation of Chess team at USSA 2018.
- Support ALL sporting codes as best as you can, no matter how difficult it might seem at times, the rewards are always greater.

ASSOCIATIONS

The office commenced with the registration of associations on 12/01/17, culminating on 17/021/17 with almost 90 associations registered.

This process was largely a success; most challenges experienced were due to the changes in the systems.

SRC MEDIA



SRC STUDENT MEDIA COUNCIL

The office of Student Media made it through the year with minimal support, but did what it had to.

The office of Student Affairs has not been very supportive in terms of financial and operational support. The office is constantly requested to attend and document events, yet there is no equipment available for this.

The three media platforms have compiled individual reports, as each platform face different issues and the nature of their work differ.

I have been requesting internet access and software for the three platforms since stepping into office, but the request has fallen on deaf ears.

These are recommendations for the following year, in order for the office of Student Media to run efficiently:

- A stipend must be paid to all student media staff.
- Internet access for the three media platforms that is not linked to student accounts, for purposes of loading content, social media, editing, etc.
- A DSLR camera that will be shared between the office of Student Media and the office of Media and Marketing for SRC events and publicity. This will be the liability of the SRC, and no other parties will be granted permission to make use of the camera.
- The three student media platforms must charge for all services, both for SRC and outside events. This will ensure that the platforms are taken seriously, and allow for the platforms to be self-sustaining.
- Working documents must be adopted ASAP, in order to allow for the platforms to run efficiently.
- A financial audit must take place ASAP for transparency of the student media platforms.
- The Student Media Board must be appointed.

- Clear roles for each member of all media platforms, including executive staff and the Student Media Manager, must be discussed and agreed upon by the incoming administration.
- Benchmarking must take place at least once throughout each administration term.
- Regular training must be given to all platforms, and no platform must be prioritised over another.

Student Media has the ability to produce top quality content. The university needs to pay more attention to this office. These are the future media practitioners of the country, and staff of this office must be treated with the same respect and be granted the same respect and priority as members of other offices.

For the first time in many years, the office will be hosting and creating its own content. This will be done in the form of two creative workshops which will take place on 23 and 24 August 2017. The workshops will include speakers from various media fields such as advertising, television, fashion production, radio, as well as print media.

The aim is to encourage students to go into the media field with the appropriate knowledge, and encourage student media staff to remain in the field.



KovsieTV Final Report

KovsieTV has developed a marketing plan to bring in extra revenue and will begin to implement this in the second semester. The hope is for it to be fully functional by 2018.

Over the past term, we have continued to cover events and increased our presence on campus. We are in conversation with members of different media houses in Bloemfontein in an effort to create partnerships.

We continue to have the issue of under-staffing that affects video turnover, because video editing is a specialised skill that many students do not have.

We have also moved into the direction of creating our own content in the first semester and had a very successful rap cypher. KovsieTV aims to create a campus culture centred on celebrating the skills of students.

Security of equipment and the offices is a problem which will be rectified through the installation of branding over the windows so the content isn't visible from the outside.

KovsieTV is a new member of the student media family, and as such is still going through growing pains. We aim to build viewership and create a brand. We hope that by 2019 KovsieTV will be fully functional and that major operational issues will be resolved.

There seems to be inexplicable usage of funds that needs to be cleared up, in particular approximately R5 000 that has been spent on 'licence fees'.

KovsieTV has reached a crossroads in that it will cease to exist without the support of Student Affairs, which goes beyond the mere spewing of rhetoric and a call for unfruitful 'continued conversation'. Student Affairs' refusal to take student media staff seriously, has led to the loss of over 80% of this year's staff, with very few suitable candidates for these vacant slots. The same issues have continued at KovsieTV over time, such as lack of training and overall support.

Student Affairs cannot continue with its current arrogant trajectory and should stop using 'gaining experience' as an excuse to exploit student media volunteers. The suggestion put forward would be to either revise Student Affairs' Student Media manager or bring in two additional managers for KovsieTV and Irawa, who would be able to provide holistic support without bias.

KovsieFm Report

We started the year with a new marketing manager and me as acting programme manager. That being said, we have slowly started to find some sort of rhythm. A new partnership with Cell C has seen us break into outside broadcasting, thus making it

easier to take community radio back to our community. Plans to implement this are under way. We have also renewed a few other sponsorships within the station.

We have also looked into getting hoodies and T-shirts as marketing tools for the station, but are still experiencing some problems as there have been quite a few delays in the process. The designs are done, and now it is a matter of securing the right funding.

We have also made a few changes internally, which we hope will bring more attention to the station. With the implementation of new shows, our management team and the students who work at the station have to put in extra hours to make it possible to grow the station. As a result, we have some late nights, and without any sort of remuneration for overtime to provide for transport, we're having people walking home over long distances, which is quite unsafe. This is a problem that we are currently experiencing.

Because a lot of our team are going home for the holidays, we launched a high school internship programme during the holiday which invites Grade 11s and 12s to be part of the station for the duration of the holiday period. They gain valuable experience and this is also a valuable insight into the university for them. The interns, as we like to call them, are then rewarded with certificates at the end of their internship. The idea behind this is to build strong radio personnel and make use of them at the station when they come to the University of the Free State. The programme was a success over the previous holiday period. We encountered a few difficulties, however, with many of our interns needing to attend Winter School, we ended up by losing a few members towards the end of the Internship Programme.

We have recently started with auditions and will be concluding this process towards the end of the month. We received over a hundred applicants, the most in recent times, and it is very promising that there are still so many people eager to join our team.

We managed to renew sponsorship agreements with both Cell C and Vodacom. Vodacom have renewed as our Drive show sponsors, so the show will continue to be called the Ultimate Vodacom Drive Experience. Cell C has helped tremendously, as they have offered a gig rig along with their deal, which will allow us to do outside broadcasts more frequently. As a result, we have done OBs for Safety Awareness week and were also present at KBB. This boosts incentive for our presenters and is an incredible opportunity for the guys in the team.

Even on this positive note, it has been one of our most challenging years, particularly as a management unit at the station. It was a year in which we didn't get any kind of

payment to assist with the long hours that we put in, and made motivation and drive a little more challenging. Furthermore, we haven't done nearly as much as we would have liked to as a station, and it put a dent in our progress.

2017 seems to have disappeared in a flash. There are many things which have happened and many things which we needed to happen, but didn't. We now look towards the 2017/18 period with the intention of building.

IRAWA Final Report

In the second quarter of my term, following our request for catering during editorial weekends, Gerben made provision for R250 towards the editorial weekends we had. We were able to work together as a team more efficiently. The IRAWA team then had their yearly workshop, which was mainly organised by Gerben, as he has done with the previous ones. The workshop was very productive and most of our reporters were present. It was conducted by Jacoulette Kloppers and one of her colleagues. The South African media landscape and the history of print in general, as well as that of IRAWA, were discussed. The workshop was an eye-opener and a reminder that we are not just a 'student newspaper', but a newspaper like any found in mainstream media. The reporters engaged in all the dialogues that were presented. Because some of our reporters are not Media and Journalism students, the workshop assisted in equipping them with the basics of journalism, which includes writing, content, layout, editing, and generally how to be a good reporter.

Following the workshop, we introduced new developments in the team and changed some of the layout elements in the newspaper. We realised that IRAWA team still had a lot of needs, which was a shock, because the newspaper has been generating money from advertising over the past few years. We were very displeased because our Qwaqwa team was not included in the main workshop. I requested SRC Student Media to assist in making provision for the five members, and she said she would speak to the Student Media Manager about it. I also asked the Student Media Manager about the issue. He gave me KOVSIE INN's prices per night and told me that it would be too expensive and that we were already spending a lot of money on the person conducting the workshop and catering. IRAWA is not only the Bloemfontein Campus's newspaper; it is the University of the Free State's newspaper, therefore it needs to have stories from all three campuses. In the student media press conference we had

upon the arrival of the new Rector and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Francis Petersen, he said himself that the three campuses needed to be included in all activities of student media.

There is no Student Media at Qwaqwa, but we made an effort to have a team of reporters; still, we were not met halfway by ensuring that they also received proper training. It is a great concern. Regardless of the peculiar circumstances, my Deputy and I went to Qwaqwa and tried to provide the same training we received at the workshop to the team on that side. We really want the Qwaqwa team to grow, but they need to be included in our budgets and they too should have an office. We want students from the Qwaqwa Campus to be eager to be a part of IRAWA, but that can only be done through adequate support from the managing office of Student Media and the SRC. We have decided to have a small launch of IRAWA in Qwaqwa before we step down, because on arrival for the training, we found unmanaged old stacks of the newspaper at the post-office. SRC Marketing and Media was apparently supposed to be involved in making sure that the paper is distributed to the students, but half of the campus knew nothing about IRAWA. We then had a meeting with Mr Kessah and told him that we want no SRC responsible for distribution of the paper. We just want the students that side to be aware of its existence and Mr Kessah said he is more than willing to provide assistance with regards to that.

Our biggest concerns are how the money is managed, as well missing standard operating procedures in all three platforms. Every time we request something that requires money, it is a struggle. An example being the first five-day trip we took to Cape Town in 2016. For that trip, the former SRC Student Media told us that there was no money for food, after they had already booked buses for us. Then the Student Media Manager deposited R600 into my account on the second day of our arrival, and we had already spent the first day without food. How do you send two people on a five-day trip with R600 for food?

On 1 June we went on another trip to Cape Town, following an invitation by UCT's newspaper Varsity. However, the event was different from the first one we attended, as it was a networking session. My deputy and I decided that we were going to attend the event, because it would be more beneficial to us as final-year Media and Journalism students. The Student Media Manager was of a different view, and told me

that if Tammy and I went, it would not benefit the paper because we are stepping down in September. He told us to motivate our request in writing. We did, and he told me that he would not be able to give us money for food because his student media budget was tight and he still needed to organise a workshop for Kovies TV and Kovies FM. Then we spoke to SRC Student Media and she was in support of us going to Cape Town. However, she also said she would not be able to give 'spending money', which included money for transport and food for when we are in Cape Town. IRAWA had R17 000 left in its account, so I asked Gerben if we could get the money from that account. He applied for it, and the money was provided. We were given R1 000 as per our request, which Gerben still felt was too much for the trip. The trip took place and we were able to create a working relationship with most of the speakers that were at the session. The delegates were from News 24, GroundUp, Mail & Guardian, GoodHope FM, and many more. They mostly spoke about the core of being in the field and the difficulty of making it in the industry if one has not familiarised themselves with people who have been in it longer. We were both offered work as freelance journalists in Bloemfontein for GroundUp and we will start soon. It was a very informative session and we realised that IRAWA is not as big as it should be, because it was not recognised like other student newspapers. We had engagements with delegates from other newspapers and they also had similar grievances as we did. The majority of them were also final-year students, so we were able to share a lot of helpful information with each other about the media industry and how to get jobs in the field. My Deputy and I are still more than willing to share and give report to student media as a whole about both trips, especially the first one, because we never got a chance to do so and we gained a lot from it.

In terms of SOPs, the platforms lack any coherent structure. There are no disciplinary procedures, no binding contracts are signed between volunteers and management staff, and we are missing both a working constitution and codes of conduct specific to the three platforms. We stepped into office without any reports from previous editors regarding the state of finances, state of the paper, the working structure of the paper, etc., and this indicates that the Student Media Manager, as well as Student Life, does not take much interest in student media and does not want it to flourish or prosper, because they do not even request regular reports on the goings-on of the platforms.

Student Media at the University of the Free State is not taken seriously and this must be rectified urgently.

IRAWA is generally doing very well this year because of the commitment my team and I have shown. We are still adamant about our editorial team getting salaries. We have lost more than six reporters because there is literally no incentive, no T-shirts or anything to keep them motivated to stay in the team. Most importantly, some of the students (myself included) in our team do not have bursaries, so the little money they receive from IRAWA made a huge difference in the daily student needs.

I am totally against the editorial team being the only ones getting T-shirts, because I feel that everyone deserves one. I have therefore decided that the rest of my team members who are not in the editorial team will get T-shirts from the money we have made from advertising, even if it means that I do not get one. My Deputy and I have decided that we would like an audit of all finances to be done in the office of the Student Media Manager for the past three years. We want to change the flawed system that has been used for the past years, because it is clearly not working – so that the incoming editors do not struggle the same way we did. Another important thing that we have looked into is a proper newsroom with working computers. A team of 20 people cannot function properly in one office. We need a bigger working space with enough computers. We want what is best for the newspaper. Before we step down, our main goal is to leave footprints visible enough for the next editors to be inspired to take their jobs serious, the same way that we do.

SRC UNIFORM

Below is the SRC formal shirt in a male and female cut:



Woolworths for the skirts, pants, and ties. The pants and skirts were received during June, with the description below:



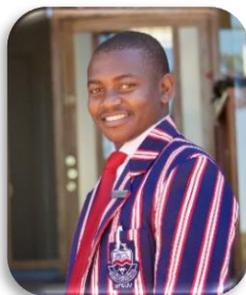
The executive committee T-shirts are as follows:



The SRC Golf Ts and Jackets are as follows:

	<p>PLEASE NOTE: Artwork must be approved before 12h00, to secure production line booking. Production booking will only take place with confirmation of final artwork. WE WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DIFFERENCE IN COLOUR, IF IT WAS NOT SPECIFIED TO US IN PANTONE COLOUR CODES</p>	<p>BuildingYOUR Brand 051 522 1161 info@quality-print.co.za www.quality-print.co.za</p>
<p>FRONT</p>	<p>FRONT</p>	

LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS



The office of Legal and Constitutional Affairs primarily deals with the promulgation of new policies, as well as reviewing current policy. The office also hosts events with the aim of introducing legal topics to those who do not have legal knowledge. Moreover, it provides protection of students' human rights.

The term was filled with challenges, progress, and achievements. At the beginning of the term I was approached by a student who had a problem with the model of the laptop he bought and could not exchange for another model. The service provider was reluctant to come on board and assist the student because of unknown reasons. However, after my intervention there was success. The student received a model that he wanted. This in particular shows that the consumer rights of students continue to be stamped upon at this institution.

Contracts and accommodation agencies are an ongoing challenge on our campus. Students offered accommodation by a particular agency off campus, approached me because they had a challenge with their water system, which was not declared an issue on their contracts. However, after a robust intervention from my office, the issue was attended to and now those students are living in accordance to what their contracts stipulate. The major accomplishment in addressing the issue of accommodation, especially KPA, is that – with contribution from other SRC leaders – an office has been established that deals directly with accreditation of off-campus accommodation, and is functioning properly.

A final-year student experiencing a challenge with registration, although he had paid historical debt, approached my office. However, in upholding the spirit of togetherness and maintaining a working relationship with colleagues, I referred him to Mr Rasephei, as it concerned his office directly. A report from Mr Rasephei indicated success in that regard, because the student was assisted after consultation with the Registrar. I had an event on 3 May 2017 which intended to address the frustrations and misconceptions of students on the recent report regarding the standard of our LLB curriculum. The event was a success, as the Dean of the Faculty of law never disappointed to clarify students and put them at ease in that regard. A series of

engagements with the Dean of the Faculty of Law are ongoing to see this matter through.

Speaking directly to my manifesto, the appointment of judges in the Student Court was a success and is functioning in principle and with the provision of the constitution, although there have been ongoing engagements with the Dean of Student Affairs around the function and importance of the structure. Student Affairs asserts that the structure must be for review and referral purposes only, and must not act as a court of first instance in dealing with student matters.

In drafting the Student Rights Bill, I am still looking at how other institutions are functioning in that respect; the project of drafting is yet to be completed. In reporting on the progress of the project: it was not completed in my term due to a number of reasons, for example the ineffectiveness of the SRC substructures such as the Student Court and Student Parliament, particularly in adopting and passing off policies. Furthermore, due to time constraints and congestion of the SRC calendar, the vision was to cooperate with the office of the Vice-President in bringing a prominent icon in the legal fraternity on board towards the end of the term, but that project did not happen as the organising of a speaker seemed a challenge due to the time frame.

An annual Kovsie debate competition was to be hosted, termed 'the legalist', but due to time constraints it did not happen. However, an amount of money was allocated to the Debate Society to represent the institution in the National Debating Nationals. We did well as an institution in the championships, as some students from our university proceeded to the finals, and one of us was awarded the prize for the 2nd best speaker of the championships.

'Catch a taxi with John' is a programme to be engaged in this coming weekend, when I, as their SRC guardian, will be taking Welwitschia ladies for a downtown treat. The aim of the programme is for them to experience another side of town which they are not exposed to. Furthermore, an EC appreciation event is also to be engaged in this coming weekend.

Although I wanted to achieve a lot in my term as a leader, the time constraint was a major hurdle. However, that is not really an excuse. I have given my best for the students of this institution and I hope that whoever succeeds me, will continue the good work.

ACADEMICS



Portfolio overview

The Academic Affairs Council of the University of the Free State is the representative student body that is (supposed to be) made up of Faculty Academic Councils of all (7) faculties, which are meant to assist the student population with all academic-related issues. The Council forms part of the Student Representative Council (SRC) in an ex officio capacity as per the SRC Constitution. The main aims and responsibilities of the Academic Affairs Council include facilitating participation and development of students in an academic environment and serves as an important link between the Faculty Academic Council committees.

The Academic Affairs Council consists of one representative (Chairperson) from each Faculty Academic Council. The chair of the Academic Affairs Council represents the body of the Student Representative Council. The sole mandate of the Academic Affairs Council on campus can be summarised as to represent academic affairs of students at the University of the Free State.

Portfolio responsibilities overview

The Academic Affairs Council works closely with Faculty Academic Councils to assist students who encounter problems with regards to:

- academic complaints (exclusions, etc.)
- test or timetable clashes
- problems with lecturers and/or faculty staff
- academic information (faculty rules and policies)

MEMBERS

Academic Affairs Council Members

- Sekese Rasephei (Chairperson) – SRC Academic Affairs
- Sixolile Nose (Member) – Chairperson of the Juridical Society in the Faculty of Law

- Veda Hendrikse (Member) – Chairperson (CEO) of Commercio in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences

Academic Affairs Executive Committee Members

- Dominique Strauss (Chairperson)
- Kaiylene de Jager
- Onkarabile Marumo
- Sameer Osman
- 'Mamoeko Ts'ilo
- Bokang Nts'onyane
- Lemohang Bolofo
- Mlondi Dlodla
- Andile Jona
- Nomavambane Mkabile

RECAP OF THE MID-TERM REPORT

In the first semester, the office has dealt mostly with assisting respective students with academic queries that involve academic exclusions, policies on tests and exams, as well as general academic information.

The office was also involved in a consultative capacity in two Executive Council meetings of the Law Faculty regarding the allowance of students in that faculty to apply for special opportunities during the 1st semester test series, as well as academic planning for the 2nd semester.

In light of the students who have come forward this semester, a trend that has emerged is that in the beginning of the year, the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences was the faculty with the most students having issues with being accepted back in the department due to not meeting the academic requirements. The Faculty of Health Sciences follows, with a lot of students who have been academically excluded, yet still have queries over their exclusion. The Faculty of Law had a lot of students complaining about the test and examination timetables.

The office assisted one student in the Music School who was conditionally accepted after passing a music audition, but was denied admission due to a technicality in the General University Admission Requirements. Along with the assistance of the office of the Vice-Rector: Academics, the office was able to facilitate the student's acceptance.

A few postgraduate students have approached the office with regards to test mark queries as well as supervisor issues. The office arranged a meeting with personnel in the relevant departments to try and help such students.

The office has largely been of assistance in a consultative and informative capacity to students.

The office convened a meeting with all Academic Portfolio holders in different structures (Residences, Associations, etc.) in order to discuss and have resolutions on the setting up of the Academic Hub.

The policies that the office plans to enact will be effective as of the 2nd semester during the Academic Week. The Academic Week (insert date here) will see the launch of both the Academic Hub and the Academic Councils for all seven faculties. Project Golden Kids will kick-start during the 1st week of the second semester.

PROJECT SUMMARIES

- Project Golden Kids – In line with the SRC mandate of *ACCESS*, the office planned to identify an underprivileged high school in the Bloemfontein area and provide career guidance as well as crucial university information in order to facilitate entry and access to university for those students.
- Faculty Academic Councils Re-establishment Launch – In line with the SRC mandate of *SUPPORT*, the office embarked on a mission to formulate a draft guiding document for the establishment of Faculty Academic Councils across all seven faculties. The office also introduced the Academic Hub Project where students can submit past question papers for all modules in all courses to be hosted in a Dropbox account in order for fellow students to download for study purposes.
- Kovsie Dux Awards – In line with the SRC mandate of *SUCCESS*, the office continued the tradition of recognising and awarding all-round excellence among our Kovsie students by organising the Kovsie Dux Student Awards.

Project Golden Kids

On 3 August 2017, the inaugural Project Golden Kids saw the matriculants of Headstart High School in Bloemfontein provided with much needed career guidance as well as faculty information in order to assist them in gaining entry to the University of the Free State for the 2018 academic year. The plan is for this project to run annually and students who are identified as Golden Kids will have a direct mentorship connection with the SRC office of Academic Affairs during the year that they enrol at the university.



Faculty Academic Councils Re-establishment Launch

On 17 August 2017, the office of the SRC Academic Affairs held an event in which the Faculty Academic Council Re-establishment document was presented to Faculty Deans, Programme Directors, Faculty Staff, and Faculty Student Representatives. The document aims to spearhead the formalisation of Faculty Academic Councils across all seven faculties. It will also begin the ongoing process of the re-establishment of Faculty Academic Councils that will be housed under and overseen by the SRC Academic Affairs office.





Kovsie Dux Student Awards

Applications for the Kovsie Dux Awards are open and a panel will select the top 10 Kovsie Dux Students of 2016/2017, where the top three will be recognised and awarded with certificates and trophies, respectively, at the Kovsie Student Awards.



KOVSIE DUX AWARDS 2017

The Kovsie Dux Award is the highest academic honour that a current Kovsie student can attain. The Kovsie Dux Award recognizes above average academic performance, coupled with excellent strides in any of the multiple facets that constitute student life e.g. leadership, participation in sport etc.

Applications are now open for the 2016/17 awards, to be announced at a ceremony to be held on the 25th of August at a venue yet to be confirmed in the Bloemfontein Campus. Make sure that you do not miss the chance to be awarded for your hard work and dedication towards leaving an academic mark and inspiring excellence while excelling in other avenues that make you a fully-fledged student.

Only senior students (second year to post-graduate) are eligible to apply.

The following documents are required to be submitted in hard copy form as part of the application at the reception of the Steve Biko (Student Representative Council) Building.

- Latest Academic Transcript
- A detailed C.V (not a short version used for job applications)
- Photocopies of Awards and Honours wherever possible and applicable
- Reference letters are not required

The Kovsie Dux Awards has three (3) categories:

- 1) First Place, Kovsie Bloemfontein Campus Dux Award
- 2) Second Place Runner-up, Kovsie Bloemfontein Campus Dux Award
- 3) Third Place Runner-up, Kovsie Bloemfontein Campus Dux Award

For more information or any inquiries, please contact the SRC Academic Affairs Officer, Sekese Rasephei on 051 401 9118/078 317 2354 and/or on RasepheiS@ufs.ac.za

The closing date for applications is Tuesday 15th of August. Late applications will not be considered.

Access. Support. Success

University of the Free State, P.O. Box 339, Bloemfontein, 9300, South Africa
T: +27(0)51 401 9111 | info@ufs.ac.za



RECOMMENDATIONS

- The next incumbent of the office needs to be very time-sensitive and attend to all tasks timely.
- The most important advice to give to students who (are at risk of having) have (future) academic queries, is that they should always have a paper trail of their engagements through emails. This helps to establish accountability, especially where investigations need to be conducted.

SRC ACADEMIC AFFAIRS: Faculty Academic Councils Re-establishment Document

Faculty Academic Councils Re-establishment Document

PREFACE

The Faculty Academic Councils Re-establishment Document (hereinafter referred to as “Document”) contains recommendations that apply to Faculty Academic Councils at the University of the Free State. It is the document that aims to formally capture the shared and needed understanding of the cooperative impact student representation in the administration and management of their respective faculties can have.

Being an academic community, the University of the Free State embraces certain foundational principles that guide the behaviour of all who exist and function in it. Among these foundational principles is academic freedom that students of every faculty are entitled to. Academic freedom affords students the freedom, through their representatives, to discuss all relevant matters with their faculty seniors in order to explore issues ranging from all avenues of the discipline itself, day-to-day running of the faculty, and affords unrestricted expression, to speak or write on matters of student concern as well as on matters related to the functioning of the faculty within the University insofar as it is in the best interests of students.

It is imperative to highlight that these freedoms come with responsibilities; faculty academic councils are expected to follow professional standards of discourse and publication, to indicate when speaking on matters of students’ interest that they are not speaking on their own behalf but that of the students who elected them, and more importantly, to conduct themselves in a civil and professional manner consistent with the normal functioning of the University.

This document aims to establish the validity and authority of the SRC Academic Affairs office in housing all faculty academic councils across all seven faculties in the context of student governance. The SRC is the highest structure in student governance and therefore this document becomes an important component of our institutional structure in giving the faculty academic councils legitimacy. Faculties reserve the autonomy to direct the composition of the faculty academic councils and oversee their functions, duties, and responsibilities in their capacity as guardians.

*Effective 17 August 2017

SECTION A: GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO ALL FACULTIES

- A.1 All seven faculties are recommended to have one structure that will represent the students of each faculty.
- A.2 Faculties with multiple departments reserve the right to establish one executive committee that will fairly represent students in those various departments and overarch the existing student associations for purposes of liaising with the office of SRC Academic Affairs.

- A.4 Faculty academic councils should have binding Constitutions developed by the faculty and/or members of the faculty staff assigned as guardians of said council, along with members of the council.
- A.3 Chairpersons of said executive committees should be made aware that they will form part of the SRC Academics Affairs Council and will be eligible to run for the ex officio portfolio of the SRC Academics Affairs after their tenure as Chairperson is complete.
- A.4 Chairpersons of said executive committees have a right of attendance and participation in faculty board meetings as held and conducted by their respective faculties.
- A.5 Faculty academic councils have a duty to report back to their constituencies in the format of an Annual General Meeting during their term.

SECTION B: COMPOSITION RECOMMENDATION

- B.1 The core composition of executive committees should consist of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, and Marketing Officer. Other positions are at the discretion of the faculty guardians and members of the faculty academic council.
- B.2 Faculties should assign a staff member to act as a guardian and/or liaison officer between the faculty academic council and the faculty.

SECTION C: THE STATUS QUO OF FACULTY ACADEMIC COUNCILS AND GENERAL STUDENT REPRESENTATION

- C.1 The SRC Academic Affairs office currently recognises the following faculty academic councils:
- The Faculty of Law's *Juridical Society*
 - The Faculty of Economic Management Sciences' *Commercio*
 - The Faculty of Health Science's *Medical Students Association*
 - The Faculty of Theology's *Sola Gratia*
 - The Faculty of Humanities' *dot.com*

C.2 The SRC Academic Affairs office is aware of the following associations that exist within the various departments in their respective faculties:

- The Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences' *Actuarial Science and Statistics* and *Agricultural Students Association**
- The Faculty of Education's *Student Representatives*

EPILOGUE

The success of this initiative is owed to the collaboration of the office of SRC Academic Affairs, the seven faculties, and the students who form part of the faculty academic council.

TRANSFORMATION



1. Institutional Culture:

Symbols, statues, and academic environment form a large part of our institutional culture. The reason for this is because it is reflective of the culture that exists in our academic space. It then becomes crucial to change the one that exists in the UFS, because it firstly is not reflective of the demographics that exists on campus, and secondly the values that embodies diversity in South Africa as a broader context.

My office speaks directly to this kind of transformation.

The Integrated Transformation Plan (ITP) is where my vision finds expression. After consultation with the Institute of Reconciliation and Social Justice at the UFS, a large part of removing statues like 'Steyn' and how that change is meaningful, is discussed fully in the ITP. I will be forming part of many of those conversations advocating particularly for transformation.

I believe it is extremely important to lay a sustainable foundation for change, and considering the importance of documents like the ITP and dialogue, I believe this is the best point of departure for transformation.

The ITP has undergone consultation and will soon be adopted at Council level. One must now wait for the university to respond adequately.

2. Decolonising and Deracialising Campus

The most common question about decolonisation is how one goes about it. While this question may be a tough one and we might not necessarily have a concrete answer for...it is in principle agreeable that it ought to be done in some way or another.

The key operative function here is to converse about it. There have been many conversations surrounding the issue of decolonising the curricular and accommodation of a larger black participation in these academic environments, and there has been overwhelming support by students at these events. This conversation

is one at best that must go to the very people it will affect, and my office will be prioritising these conversations as the residence review launches on 25 July.

More importantly, it will also form part of the conversation and submissions that the SRC will make toward the ITP. We will also engage the idea of deracialising residences, looking at their policies of placement and corridor arrangements, from 25 July to 25 August 2017.

Also refer to point 6: Residence Review.

3. LGBTQIA+ Community

This is a group of individuals largely marginalised by society outside of institutions of higher learning and even suffocated further within academic spaces.

Having presented the idea of a gender neutral residence to the rectorate and having received positive feedback, my plan is to further go back to my constituencies – the students, the gender office, and the institute, to draft an actual proposal; more importantly, start convincing residences of the need for this change and why they should be at the forefront of this change.

With assistance from the office of Arts and Culture, the goal was to organise a play that would reflect the life of a black transgender female who is also disabled, in a community that tends to be homophobic, abled, and patriarchal. The vision here was to take it further than dialogue and more into a visual representation in order to draw awareness to the greater issue in society. The play is scheduled to happen mid-August.

The play was supposed to find expression at the student awards; however, due to lack of time, the student awards were postponed. However, Harmony Residence coordinated a brilliant corridor play on 22 August to which I was fortunate enough to get an invitation. Some other residences had been invited and I believe the impact was equally amazing.

Additionally, a proposal was drafted from my office and is currently in the hands of rectorate for consideration. There will be multiple engagements on the implementation of the Gender Inclusive Residence, and this is undoubtedly a great and meaningful change that will go a long way in integrating and including the LGBTQIA+ community on campus.

4. Challenging Ableism

The UFS Bloemfontein Campus is a largely abled campus and often dismisses the challenges of disabled students. My office will have a ‘be disabled for a day’ campaign, particularly raising awareness about disability – not only a physical accessibility issue, but also as a transformative issue in that it needs abled students to recognise that

disabled students are struggling in lecture halls, residences, and even during strikes for purposes of participating.

I've consulted with CAUDS, Rizaan, and many other important stakeholders to ensure the success of this event. It has been a lengthy and educating process and the campaign will officially launch on 10 August.

This campaign was indeed launched and went well. There were a large number of participants and all of them indicated at the dialogue that there was a strong need for universal access to be prioritised both physically and in lecture halls. Most indicated additionally that programmes such as these were quite eye-opening in that it really transforms the minds of students who are able, in order to introspect and ask themselves how they could be part of the solution.

5. Deconstructing Religious Stereotypes

The Muslim Student Association (MSA) has been vocal about feeling marginalised in the greater organisation of the institution, in that it is a religious lifestyle with certain needs that are often not catered for. This is very frustrating, considering how easy it is for Christian students to be funded, and book venues for prayer, and not having to alter their meals.

Halaal food must be easily accessible on campus and this is something my office has been advocating for and calling for it to at least be sold in one of the student centres on campus.

Secondly, a call for more accommodation in the prayer lifestyles, and more spaces they can access for prayer, which is critical during the fasting months and so forth.

I have been trying to organise a meeting with Physical Resources for the past three months, but have been receiving unfavourable feedback. At both fronts, the response has been demotivating to say the least. It is my view that we should get more stakeholders to play a role in pressurising management to make this change at a greater pace.

Additionally, the Higher Education Act recognises what is called a Student Services Council, which is primarily a centralised hub where students are able to make contributions on whatever services are provided to them. This is important, because when it is adopted by Council, it will mean that students will be able to make representations about the kind of food they want to see sold at either of the bridges on campus. More importantly, associations like MSA will also make contributions to the Student Services Council and hopefully then Halaal food will be prioritised.

6. Residence Review

Residences accommodate a very large part of the student community. However, there are still many changes needed on that front. Many first-years complain about some of the practices that still happen in residences, which they feel uncomfortable with. I will be embarking on a residence review from 25 July to 25 August. The main question to be answered about practices, symbols, and cultures, will be whether they continue to uphold the dignity, equality, and freedom of every member of the residence.

I attended the Primes Council meeting in order to request a platform at their residences, but not many responded. However, I did indeed go to the residences and had a brief conversation about transformation in residence life. Perhaps it was an issue of time or lack of interest for those who did not respond, as it was also close to the time for new leadership to be elected. Additionally, some primes indicated that the conversation could severely disturb the peace in the house because of the degree of discomfort when considering challenging culture. However, I think as a recommendation, the next SRC Transformation must continue with this review, because it is necessary and will go a long way in terms of the transformation agenda.

Some changes will make many people uncomfortable, but I always say that it is only at the point of discomfort that we experience truthful and meaningful change.

The journey ahead is long and tiring; however, it needs brave leaders to take it on courageously and tirelessly. Transformation is at the very core and heart of every institution and it must be driven with passion and consistency. Transformation is always necessary in every space and it is the institutional memory that helps us move from where we are to where we want to go. During a five-month term, only so much can be achieved, and I believe that the transformation agenda was advanced and should continue to be advanced by the next incoming leader. The most important principle here is to learn from the mistakes and shortfalls and continue to build where a foundation was laid.

VICTORIES OF THE SRC

In term 2016/2017 the SRC achieved:

These are few of many achievements of the SRC

1. No student was deregistered in the year 2017
2. Computer labs hours were increased from 22h00 to 24h00
3. A transport pilot project was established
4. The SRC launched a SRC Fund in which R80 000 was fundraised for the textbook bursary
5. The free internet cap was increased from 2GB on peak to 4GB on peak
6. An accreditation of all off campus accommodation was established through negotiation with management of off campus safety
7. The SRC maximized transparency of all its operations and negotiation- minutes and reports were email to students on a monthly basis as well as the mid-term report with the SRC's financial statements.
8. The anti-discrimination policy as well as the Integrated Transformation Plan were adopted in student parliament with amendments. The sexual harassment policy is yet to be adopted in the next term.
9. The residence reservation key for all students has been reduced to only cover the breakages and key deposit.
10. All academic advisors are to receive one template across all faculties where the student will sign, and the academic advisor for purposes of accountability.
11. The SRC in the coming term will receive an increase in their termly budget. (Associations will receive a seat funding and student levy to be used for projects)
12. The Central SRC will receive an activity-based budget, separate from the SRC budget.

SRC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2016/2017




SRC PRESIDENT




SRC VICE PRESIDENT




SRC SECRETARY GENERAL




SRC TREASURER




SRC ASSOCIATIONS AND DIALOGUE

**THANK YOU KOVSIES FOR THE CONTINUED SUPPORT
THROUGHOUT OUR TERM!**