



# **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL [ BLOEMFONTEIN CAMPUS ]**

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## **MID-TERM REPORT 2016/2017**

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### **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
  - ❖ Cooperative governance
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## 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...

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**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 mid-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.



UFS SRC President  
Mr S. Luwaca



## **THEMES**

1. Registration
  2. Deregistration
  3. Financial Report
  4. Safety of off-campus students
  5. Thuso Desk
  6. SRC Fund
  7. Postgraduate students
  8. International students
  9. Residences
  10. Student Participation and Campus Activities
  11. Student Media
  12. Academics
  13. Policy and Parliament
  14. Transformation and Dialogue
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# UFS SRC BLOEMFONTEIN CAMPUS COUNCIL MEMBERS



Mr Luwaca  
President



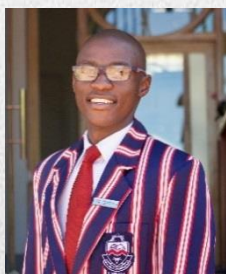
Ms Manyaiyi  
Vice - President



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 &  
Spuport



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  
Art and Culture



Ms Mthethwa  
Student  
Development



Ms Motsumi  
Media & Marketing



# 1. 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.

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## *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 were owing 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.

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## **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.

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## 2. 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.
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***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. ..

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**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..

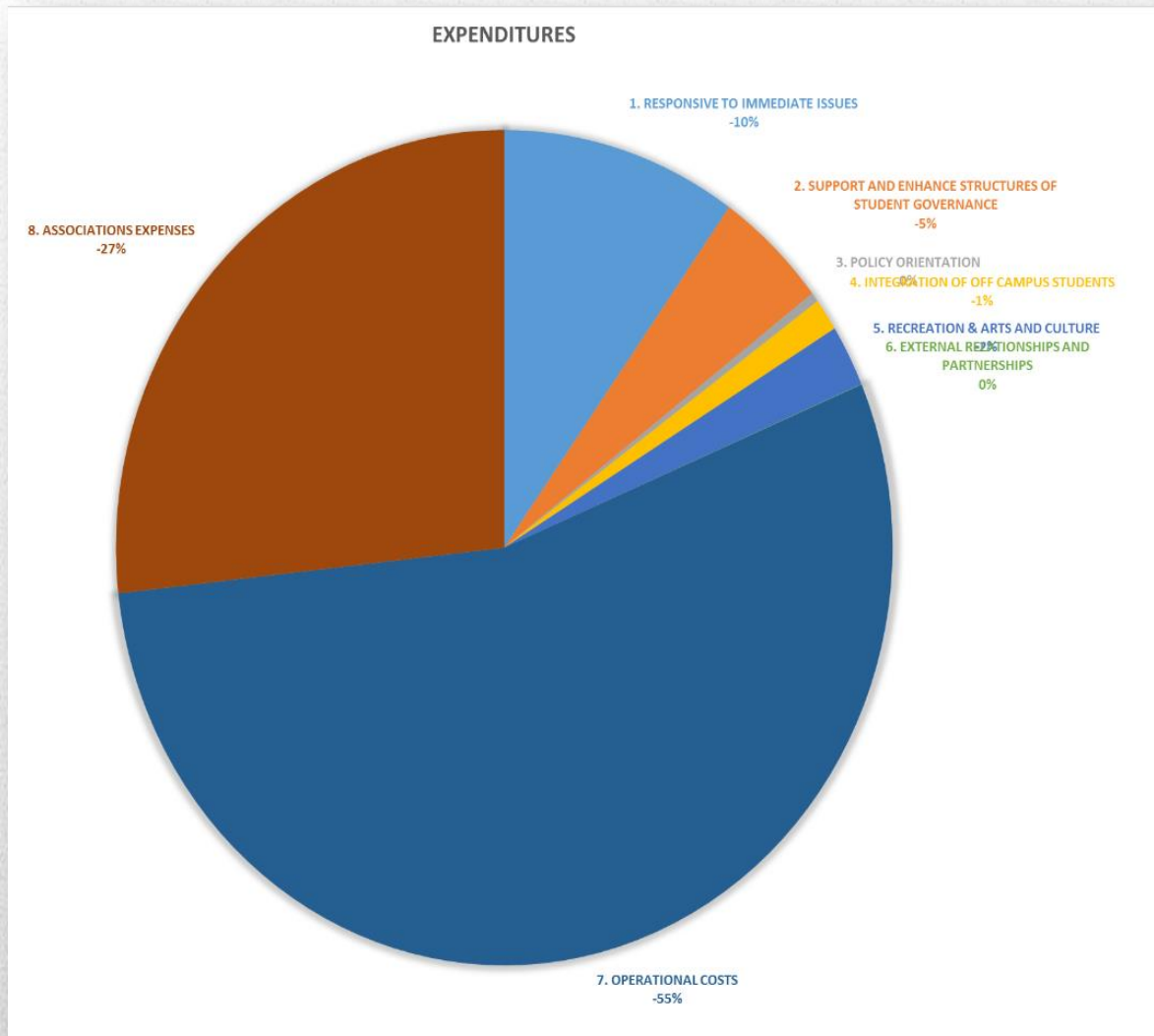
- All students who were at risk of de-registration, would be re-registered with immediate effect.
- The SRC would keep the student community informed on the process currently underway to re-register students.

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

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### 3. FINANCIAL REPORT



The University of the Free State has allocated R650 000 to the SRC in 2016/17 for the operational period of 1 April 2017 to 31 August 2017. The financial report submitted in this document covers the period from 1 April 2017 to the end of June 2017. The financial report is prepared using the current SRC's strategic goals as the core points of reference, which are as follows:

1. Responsive to immediate issues
2. Support and enhance structures of student governance
3. Policy orientation
4. Integration of off-campus students
5. Integration of postgraduate students
6. Culture of human rights
7. Recreation and Arts and culture
8. External relationships and partnerships



It is evident that a huge bulk of the SRC budget so far is primarily absorbed by operational costs, associations taking the secondary costs. Majority of the projects budgeted for that speak to the strategic goals mentioned above, are yet to take place (kindly refer to the annexure at the end of the document and the SRC calendar for these upcoming projects)

**Expenditure 1 April 2017 to 30 June 2017: (On the following page)**

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<b>SRC Opening Balance 01 April 2017</b>	<b>R650 000</b>
Donations and sponsorships	R0,00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>R650 000,00</b>
<b><u>1. RESPONSIVE TO IMMEDIATE ISSUES</u></b>	<b>-29 272,60</b>
Unplanned costs (3 787,02 + 500,00)	R4 287,02
Nsfas enquiries	R19 987,08
Compiling of aggregate student enquires	R894,50
Higher Education Summit	R4 104,00
<b><u>2. SUPPORT AND ENHANCE STRUCTURES OF STUDENT GOVERNANCE</u></b>	<b>-14 113,18</b>
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
<b><u>3. POLICY ORIENTATION</u></b>	<b>-1 089,80</b>
Student Parliament Expenses	R1 089,80
<b><u>4. INTEGRATION OF OFF CAMPUS STUDENTS</u></b>	<b>-3 725,38</b>
Students study marathon (2 258,40 + 1 466,98)	R3 725,38
<b><u>5. RECREATION &amp; ARTS AND CULTURE</u></b>	<b>-7 110,00</b>
International Students Braai	R1 739,50
Sport achievements (170,50 + 2 700)	R2 870,50
Wheelchair Rally	R2 500,00
<b><u>6. EXTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS AND PARTNERSHIPS</u></b>	<b>-R55,76</b>
Safety Awareness meeting with stakeholders	R55,76
<b><u>7. OPERATIONAL COSTS</u></b>	<b>-162 560,40</b>
Council catering (1 600,00 + 1 600,00 + 1 718,00 + 2 000)	R6 918,00
Equipment (13 708.50+ 17 271,00 + 1 993,86)	R32 973,36
Toner	R899,00
Printing (178, 00 + 150,00 + 225,00 + 85,00 + 600,00)	R1 238,00
Transportation (606,64 + 6 500,00 + 440,00 +1 958,87 + 240,00 + 610,00 + 220,00)	R10 575,51
Uniform (11 000,00 + 7 890,00)	R18 890,00
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
CSRC Catering (4 500,00 + 4 104,00)	8 604,00
Branding	1 150,00
Flights (3 174,86 + 6 115,35 + 5 090,41)	R14 380,62
<b><u>8. ASSOCIATIONS EXPENSES</u></b>	<b>-79 568,61</b>
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)	R40 310,11
Printing (120,00 + 37,50 + 300 + 162,50)	R620,00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>-297 495,73</b>
<b>Closing Balance 1 July 2017</b>	<b>R352 504,27</b>



## 4. SAFETY OF OFF-CAMPUS STUDENTS

For a long time, the process of integration and safety of off-campus students have not been a top priority. As the SRC of 2016/2017, we identified the safety of our off-campus students as a strategic objective.

Through discussions with the University Management, the SRC flagged the need for urgent accreditation of off-campus accommodation, introduction of by-laws to regulate off-campus accommodation, a shuttle service, and access to the internet. We further proposed the appointment of a person who would oversee the process of accreditation, which was agreed to and executed. Currently, the SRC forms part of a process that seeks to respond positively to issues of off-campus students. We are part of the process that investigates the possibility of a circular route at a discounted rate with Interstate Bus Services. We are also part of the process that investigates the extension of internet to surrounding areas, and the installation of alarm systems to off-campus accommodation at student houses.

The SRC proposed a symbolic march (to the municipality for bylaws to regulate off-campus accommodation) and safety awareness week, which was welcomed and strongly supported by the University Management. We urge all our students to form part of both the safety awareness week and safety march on 27 July 2017. The SRC visited all post-school institutions in the Mangaung region for a collaborative or rather collective approach.

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## Safety Awareness Week:

DATE	PROGRAMME
24 July 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Meet all Executive committee members of the SRC</li><li>▪ Meet all student leaders (sub-council structures of SRC)</li><li>▪ Door-to-door (visit to all off-campus accommodations)</li></ul>
25 July 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Activations at all UFS entrances</li><li>▪ Launch of the safety campaign (at the Bridge)</li><li>▪ Door-to-door</li><li>▪ Meet on-campus residence leadership at different colleges</li></ul>
26 July 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Activation at all UFS entrances</li><li>▪ Safety dialogue</li><li>▪ Door-to-door</li></ul>
27 July 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Students meet at Student Lekgotla at 10:00</li><li>▪ Students move to the Main Building at 10:30</li><li>▪ March moves to the municipality at 11:00</li></ul>
28 July 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Social media awareness</li></ul>

*Attached in the Annexure is a report from Treasury on a meeting with the Community Policing Forum, and the minutes from a multi-stakeholder meeting hosted by the Central University of Technology.*

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## 5. 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 to the students of the University of the Free State.

The help desk is a collaboration of various offices which have different designated responsibilities. The 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.
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### *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.
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## 6. 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

- Kovsie's 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.

## KOVSIES BIGGIEST BRAAI

### INTRODUCTION

VENUE: Cricket 1

THEME: TBA

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Kovsie's Biggest Braai (KBB) is the University of the Free State's first social cohesion braai. KBB is a challenging, exciting, entertaining, fun and uniting initiative from the Bloemfontein Student Representative Council (SRC). The SRC has recognised the need for financial assistance to students, given the crisis of deregistration that the institution faced earlier in the year. Therefore, the SRC has taken the initiative to establish the SRC Fund in line with the SRC's mission of **ACCESS, SUPPORT, AND SUCCESS**. The following document provides an outline of the project.

*The full project description will be attached in Annexure C.*

## **BUSINESS BREAKFAST**

One of our strategic objectives is to build strategic partnerships externally. As part of our vision, which is access, support, and success, we are officially launching the SRC Fund. The business breakfast introduces the fund to enterprise and the Manguang community. The battle for access to higher education involves the society. The event is sponsored by the vice-chancellor.

## **RIGHT 2 LEARN**

The Right to Learn campaign exists primarily to assist students in institutions of higher learning with challenges of finances, financial exclusion, and other student-related matters. This campaign enhances and intensifies the struggle to increase access to institutions of higher learning and creating and enabling the doors of learning and culture to be open for all. The Right 2 Learn Challenge is part of this initiative.

### **Right 2 Learn Challenge**

#### ***Objective***

Raise funds for poor, academically deserving students, stimulating conversation about access to higher education. A movement by students for students.

#### ***Description***

Right to Learn (R2L) Challenge is a 10-day cycle tour from the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, to the University of Cape Town in order to raise funds for academically talented students who cannot afford university fees. The challenge aims to raise over R2 million, which will give access to 1 000 students by paying for their registration fees.

*The full project description is attached in Annexure C.*

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## 7. POSTGRADUATE

**Office of the Postgraduate Student Council for the term 9 January - 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.

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*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**

<b>Progress</b> <i>Past month</i> <b>DONE!</b> ↓	<b>Problems</b> <i>Open issues</i> <b>CHALLENGES!</b> ↓	<b>Plans</b> <i>Suggestions/Solutions</i> <b>TO-DO!</b> ↓
<b>Getting all useful external research and funding tools running at the university</b>  <b>Creating conference opportunities for all PGSC members</b> <b>Assisting individual students</b>	Communication between PGSC and management on important issues is delayed unnecessarily  Funding for projects  Funding for individual students	Visiting DUT for benchmarking purposes
<b>What lies ahead?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nelson Mandela Day project: Tswelopele Correctional Service</li><li>• Women’s Day project: Correctional service</li><li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> Academic session</li><li>• Heritage Day project</li><li>• Postgraduate students end-of-year function</li></ul>		



## Academic Report

Progress <i>Past month</i> DONE! ↓	Problems <i>Open issues</i> CHALLENGES! ↓	Plans <i>Suggestions/Solutions</i> TO-DO! ↓
<b>Academic session on: <i>decolonising of the curriculum</i></b>  <b>The proposal for free internet for Hons and PGDip students has been sent to VR research, the proposal will serve at Rectorate for approval.</b>	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	Information session to clarify the issue of free Hons registration
<b>What lies ahead?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information session to clarify the issue of free registration</li> <li>• Academic session</li> </ul>		

## International Affairs Report

Progress <i>Past month</i> DONE! ↓	Problems <i>Open issues</i> CHALLENGES! ↓	Plans <i>Suggestions/Solutions</i> TO-DO! ↓
Inquiries on collaboration between the postgraduate and undergraduate international students towards the Heritage Day project.	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.	Frequent communication between both portfolios (International Affairs PGSC and International Affairs SRC)  Thinking of the possibility of holding a separate information session to address visa issues/ police clearances (not including it as part of the Heritage Day Project).  Working with Ms Niemann in the Office of International Affairs to materialise information session.
<b>What lies ahead?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage Day Programme</li> <li>• Information session for visas/ police clearance inquiries</li> </ul>		



## Social Media and Liaison Report

<b>Progress</b> <i>Past month</i> <b>DONE!</b> ↓	<b>Problems</b> <i>Open issues</i> <b>CHALLENGES!</b> ↓	<b>Plans</b> <i>Suggestions/Solutions</i> <b>TO-DO!</b> ↓
<p>Inquiry made on the necessary documents needed in order to have a slot at Kovesie 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 Kovesie FM proposal.</p> <p>All council members to come up with possible topics to be discussed during the Kovesie 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>
<b>What lies ahead?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nelson Mandela Day Project</li> <li>Securing a spot at Kovesie FM</li> </ul>		



## Treasury and Funding Report

<b>Progress</b> <i>Past month</i> <b>DONE!</b> ↓	<b>Problems</b> <i>Open issues</i> <b>CHALLENGES!</b> ↓	<b>Plans</b> <i>Suggestions/Solutions</i> <b>TO-DO!</b> ↓
<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 hold when posted schedule is finalised.</p>	<p>Info on an estimated number of postgraduate students with financial challenges</p> <p>Reluctances 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's 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>
<b>What lies ahead?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publicising funding information</li> <li>Taking part in the information session as a medium to share vital info on bursaries and scholarships.</li> <li>Submission of funding proposals.</li> </ul>		



## 8. INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

### 8.1 Welcome Function

The International Student Council hosts a yearly welcome function for first-entry international students. This project is aimed at creating a platform for all first-year international students to meet as first-years 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 different 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.

### 8.2 Facilitate City Tour

This again is a yearly 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.

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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. Through 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.

### **8.3 Qwaqwa Welcome Function**

The purpose and objective of this function is the same as that of the Bloemfontein function. The ISC chair, Takudzwa Nyamunda, along with four staff members from the Office of International Affairs, travelled to Qwaqwa on 2 March for the event which was held on 3 March. The function was successfully hosted as international students at the Qwaqwa Campus were welcomed by the Registrar: Dr Karen Lazenby, the Dean of Academics, and the SRC President of the Qwaqwa Campus, and were given an opportunity to meet and receive information about the responsibilities of international students and the work done by the Office of International Affairs.

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#### 8.4 There are three other events, namely the Dialogue session, Crowd Traumerei, and the Zimsa braai.

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 therefore has established a rather solid working relationship which, however, still needs to be worked on through more collective initiatives.
- Engagement and accountability has been done through 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 in that aspect, because of other engagements that have taken up my time.
- Launched International Student Council on Qwaqwa Campus

Going forward into the last part of my term, we are firstly planning an SRC social cohesion and fundraising event called Kovsies Biggest Braai (proposal attached), which is the brain child of an association in my council (International Students Association) and which has been adopted by the SRC as one of its projects for the term.

Secondly, it is my goal to work on a policy document for International student fees that sets the arrangements made earlier this year as a more permanent aspect of international students' registration programme and plan, given the crisis we had to deal with at the beginning of the calendar year. Another aspect of the policy is to move the international associations to be only part of the International Student Council instead of being in two councils as per decision made by the council.

Thirdly, it is my goal to facilitate elections of the three associations in my council to make sure they are democratic and fair.

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## 9. RESIDENCES

### 9.1 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 that came looking for accommodation and I would always 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...

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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.

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## **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 as well as the said governance structure. The floor plan and judging criteria required, were created and this was distributed to the college primes, residence primes, and the people in charge of the Open Day. In the future, we seek to actually reinforce their identity as well as 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.

## **9.2 DAY RESIDENCES AND COMMUTER STUDENTS**

### **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.

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## 2. Private Accommodation:

### 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 to find 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 are urged to register their property/properties by 31 July 2017 for accreditation purposes.
  - ✓ The University of the Free State, together with my office, will be hosting a safety awareness campaign for off-campus students from 24 to 28 July 2017.
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### **Primes Council:**

- ✓ 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 took effect in May 2017.
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## 10. STUDENT PARTICIPATION & CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

### 10.1 ARTS AND CULTURE

#### Stagedoor Report

Thirty residences participated in the 2017 Stagedoor, inclusive of 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 lived 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 Serenade National Competition. Please find attached the communication between my office and the office of Pretoria SRC in the annexure..
  3. There is ongoing communication between Macdonald, my office, and Head office.
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## **Archives Project**

1. After the strategic planning session, the office of Arts and Culture was given a 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.

## **LGBTQ Drama and Dialogue**

My office and the Office of Transformation are busy with the project of LGBTQI. We are planning to have this event of 3 August 2017.

## **10.2 RECREATION (SPORTS)**

### **1. Sport Office Vision**

- Ensuring that all sporting codes are brought to the same level of importance.
  - Successfully hosting intervarsity.
  - Improving communication between Kopsie Sport and students.
  - Creating platforms for students to access information about matches and the different sporting codes which they can be part of.
  - Advocating for the inclusion of off-campus students in sport, as it is a general feeling on campus that sport is only reserved for those who are in residences. Those who aren't – as much as they want to play, are being excluded...
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## 2. Residence Committee Sport Portfolio Meetings

### A. RC Meetings

The Office of Sport has had one meeting with RC Sport this term:

Date: 21 April 2017

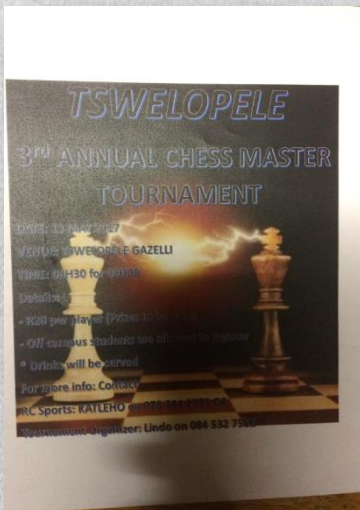
Venue: SRC Hall

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 in 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 this 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 and Harmony .

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

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



The winners were as follows:

<b>Female Category</b>	Harmony
<b>Male Category</b>	Beyers Naude
<b>Co-ed Residences</b>	ConLaures

**Harmony were the overall winner of the Spirit Cup 2017**

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## D. INTERVARSITY

The planning of intervarsity, which is set for 4 August 2017 on the Bloemfontein Campus, is as shown below:

### PROJECT: INTERVARSITY

MOTIVATE HOW THE PROJECT IS ALIGNED TO THE SRC VISION	NUMBER OF STUDENTS INVOLVED	PROJECT ACTIONS	VALUES ADDRESSED IN PROJECT	BUDGET PROPOSAL
Intervarsity give students the opportunity to compete in sport with different institutions; thus not only acquiring more knowledge about a specific sport, but also building friendships with students from those specific institutions.	SRC, EC Sport and specific UFS staff will form part of the LOC	1. Booking of venues	Ubuntu	
		1. Securing match officials	Social cohesion and awareness	TBC
	NUL representatives will also be in the LOC	1. Securing medical support – ER24		TBC
		1. Advertising		TBC
	UFS students	1. Support T-shirts		TBC
		1. Other expenses <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Catering</li><li>• Transport</li><li>• Trophies and medals</li><li>• Sound</li></ul>		TBC



## E. Varsity Sport

### Rugby

- Shimlas reached the semi-finals stage and were edged out by UP Tuks who went on to win the tournament.
- UFS Young Guns also reached the semi-finals stage and were also knocked out by UP Tuks Young Guns who went on to win the tournament.
- Vishuis successfully defended the Steinhoff Koshuis Championship.

### Cricket

Kovsies finished 7<sup>th</sup> on the log for 2017.

### Hockey

Kovsies ladies finished 5<sup>th</sup> overall on the log.

### Athletics

Kovsies are currently 4<sup>th</sup> on the Division A log table.

The rest of the varsity cup tournaments are expected to be played in the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.

## F. Residence Sport

*Winners for sporting codes that have concluded are as follows:*

### Netball

Section A	Section B	Section C
Marjolein 1	Madelief 1	ConLaures

### Squash

	Section A	Section B
Female	Sonnedou	Vergeet My Nie
Male	Khayalami	Karee

### Rugby

Super league (K1)	First League (K2)	Second League (K3)	Social League (K4)
Steinhoff KG 1	Steinhoff Vishuis 3	Steinhoff Vishuis 4	Steinhoff Barbarians 1





**Soccer**

	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Division</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Division</b>
<b>Female</b>		Harmony
<b>Male</b>	Veritas	Khayalami 2

**Basketball**

<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>
Soetdoring	Legatum



## G. Special Congratulations



- Koviesies 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 Lefebvre 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 Bloose and Rewan Kruger who were part of the Junior Bok squad representing South Africa at the U-20 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.
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## **Associations**

The office commenced with the registration of associations on 12/01/17, culminating on 17/021/17 with almost 90 association registered. This process was largely a success; most challenges experienced were due to the changes in the systems.

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## 11. STUDENT MEDIA

The SRC Student Media office has been working hard to ensure that the operations of all three platforms run smoothly. There have been challenges such as inadequate equipment for SRC events to be covered. Our computers also have very old software for the nature of work that is expected to come from the office.

A complaint came to my office about the lack of media and public relations coverage of SRC events. Although this is not solely the responsibility of my office, I had suggested that a list of all SRC events be given to my office on a weekly basis, in order to delegate the relevant media resources.

My office is also in the process of acquiring official media accreditation for all student media platforms, in an effort to guide the council into being a legitimate media house. We are in talks with the communication department of the UFS.

The payment of student media staff members continues to be a big factor. It is important for student staff members to get an incentive. The narrative that experience is gained, therefore payment is not necessary, is a dangerous one, because these students put blood, sweat, and tears into their craft. Most come from families that cannot afford to send them extra money. They come to student media with immense amounts of talent and a passion for the media. The least that could be done is to compensate these students for their hard work. IRAWA Post, KowsieFM, and KowsieTV have lost several staff members due to lack of payment. They leave for platforms where they are able to get paid. This is bad for Student Media and essentially Student Affairs, because we are losing our own to other institutions.

Internet access is a major issue facing all student media. One cannot load content, interact with the student community, disseminate information and so on, without internet connection. We cannot be a fully functional media house without such a basic tool. This is something that needs to be looked into urgently.

*In Annexure E is a report from Irawa Post Editor, KowsieFM Project Manager, and KowsieTV Channel Manager.*

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## 12. ACADEMICS

### 12. 1 ACADEMICS

The Academics Office liaised with the following specific contact persons in the faculties in order to successfully assist students who had academic queries precluding them from registering.

#### 1. Faculty of Health Sciences

- Prof Gert van Zyl – The Dean of the Faculty of Health Science
- Dr Lynette van der Merwe – The Programme Director of the Undergraduate Medical Programme

#### 2. Faculty of Law

- Ms Hanlie Grobler – The Secretary of the Faculty of Law
- Dr Manie Moolman – The Acting Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Law

#### 3. Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

- Elizabeth Oosthuizen – Academic Manager of Teaching and Learning in the Office of the Dean of the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences
- Prof Kahilu Kajimo-Shakantu - Adjunct Professor and Academic Department Head: Quantity Surveying and Construction Management
- Prof Lis Lange provided insight in more specific issues with the rest of the faculties.

The Office also established contact with the following Chairpersons in order to begin the Academic Student Council Sitzings where faculty-specific student issues were tabled:

1. Kobus Roestoff
    - **Chairperson of Golden Key 2016/2017**
  2. Bennie de Bruin
    - **Chairperson of the Medical Students Association 2016/2017 (Faculty of Health Science)**
  3. Veda Hendrikse
    - **President of Commercio 2016/2017 (Faculty of Economic Management Sciences)**
  4. Sixolile Nose
    - **Chairperson of the Juridical Society 2016/2017 (Faculty of Law)**
-



In the first semester, the office has assisted mostly students with academic queries involving 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 Faculty of Law 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, the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences had the most issues with students being accepted back into 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 exclusions. 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. 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 meetings 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 which 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 as well as the Academic Councils for all seven faculties. Project Golden Kids will kick-start during the 1st week of the Second Semester.

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## 13. POLICY AND PARLIAMENT

### 13.1 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.

### 13.2 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. ..

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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...

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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 was elected.

**Speaker** - Sinxolo Nosi

**Deputy Speaker** - Kobus Roestoff

Please view the calendar in the Annexure for second semester parliamentary dates.

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## 14. DIALOGUE AND TRANSFORMATION

### 14.1 Dialogue

**Below is the issued Statement and Background of the Path of Reflections project:**

#### ***Path of Reflection Submissions***

*The office of Dialogue and Associations invites students to make submissions on the names that should be featured on the Path of Reflection and the order in which these names should appear.*

*Following events that took place at Shimla Park, black students spray-painted buildings and trees as a direct call and cry for inclusive symbolism. This call is now reflected on the line of trees that stand in front of the FGG Building. It is important to note the effect that symbolism has in influencing our feelings, behaviours, and choices. The student community made submissions through a series of dialogues on transformation. In these submissions, the promotion of democratic ethos and the ideals of the Constitution were embedded.*

*In an attempt to address these challenges and to institutionalise a new social order, we propose that the front of the FGG Building be recognised as a path of reflection and that each symbol be complemented with a critical conversation series – giving meaning to our history of promoting critical diversity literacy. This will assist in addressing the under-representation of blacks and women in our institutional memory.*

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- *To speak to the hearts and minds of the UFS community through art and symbolism*
  - *To document transformation gains of the University of Free State post 1996*
  - *To develop critical graduates appreciative of its history*
  - *To inspire the UFS community to be part of institutionalising a new social order*
  - *To create critical conversation around diversity and history*
  - *To socialise responsible and constructive critical citizens*
-



### **Path of Reflection (Trees in front of FGG)**

- Creative expression of inclusive symbolism
- Create conversations on ongoing transformation through the Arts
- Affirm and embrace the rich diversity
- To affirm 2014 Council declaration

*This will begin a Series of Critical Conversations around inclusivity, human rights, and common commitment to a humane, non-sexist, and non-racial social order.*

*The above project was submitted to the Naming Committee and it was approved in principle, awaiting the final submission of names that will go on the trees and the order thereof.*

*The deadline for the submissions is **06/04/17, 00:00.***

*Submissions can be made electronically to [DlanjwaA@ufs.ac.za](mailto:DlanjwaA@ufs.ac.za), written submissions can be submitted to the **Office of Dialogue and Associations, Steve Biko Building, Office 50.***

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## **Below are the Final Submissions and Recommendations from the Office of Dialogue and Associations: Path of Reflection**

### **Final Submissions and Recommendations from the Office of Dialogue and Associations: Path of Reflection**

#### ***Recommendation 1:***

*All the names that are currently on the trees will be retained and preserved.*

#### ***Recommendation 2:***

*No new names should be added to the 'Path' on the unprinted trees.*

#### ***Recommendation 3:***

*On the trees that aren't printed, we should print and record facts about the Shimla Park attacks.*

#### ***Recommendation 4:***

*On the other trees, we must record the names of the victims of the incident, such as Ernest, the worker who lost his life, and the unborn child which was the result of a miscarriage that supposedly emanated from the violent attacks on the field.*

#### ***Recommendation 5:***

*The names of the students and the workers (a list) that were victims of the incident on and off the field should also be inscribed on one of the trees.*

#### ***Recommendation 6:***

*The material to be used must not be 'fancy' and 'shiny', but rusty and it must capture the essence and the mood of that time and space.*

## **Way forward: Path of Reflection**

At the next Associations Council sitting (26/07/17), the Chairperson of the Associations will report on the progress of the project.

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## 14.2 TRANSFORMATION

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.

### **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 regarding the prayer lifestyles and more venues 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 month, but have been getting unfavourable feedback. In 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.

*Annexure F will include the office's further projects to be implemented in the second semester.*

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#### ***Annexure A: SRC Executive Committee***

*The following is a list of all the SRC ECs which have assisted the SRC to achieve the contents of this report*





## PRESIDENCY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

NAMES
Zatu X (zatuxola01@gmail.com)
Khani AV
Mahlasela M
Sompafa AS
Ndweni K
Mostami M
Msiza Z
Taka T
Le Roux M
Biyela B
Jones CR
Muchela R
Msimang S
Motloubg MMC
Lekaota TM

## VICE PRESIDENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

NAMES
Binyane T
Makhomu T
Maphalala B
Luthuli A
Sakani N
Williams A
Shata R

## SECRETARY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

NAMES
Ralikonyana M (mralikonyana@gmail.com)
Konile F
Motlhanke L
Motsamai S
Tsikoe N
Gxogxa O
Mugerwa P
Hadebe S
Seqhobane N

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### TREASURER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

NAMES
Rixana S
Govender K
Moeng R
Ralarala S
Menyatso S
Moabi K
Nhlapo L

### DIALOGUE AND ASSOCIATIONS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

NAMES
Lepheana T
Mbenguzana M
Marncce R
Molale O
Gaolaowe T

### STUDENT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

NAMES
Ferreira N (nadiaferrie@gmail.com)
Lungwana M
Nhlane T
Monoana T
Booyesen T
Makara L
Khumalo A
Mpateni S
Mkhize P



## STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY AND SUPPORT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

NAMES
Griesel C
Lentoe T
Sello M
Chauke L
Tshiswaise M

## FIRST GENERATION STUDENTS:

SURNAME
Makhado P (makpmakhado@gmail.com)
Lenyehelo P
Wongama H
Amponsah S
Mogwaladi R
Khaba M
Nama Z
Nhlane T
Maleke N
Binyane T

## POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS COMMITTEE:

NAMES
Nyaile K
Nde A
Ramonaheng S
Olanlokun F
Adetoro A
Makhalemele T
Mphou M
Jase D
Motlhanke M
Taaibosch C
Nyathikazi T
Ndamase S
Selaledi K
Moholoholo N
Tyhaliti P
Ts'osane M
Buku Z
Nomfundo



## ON-CAMPUS RESIDENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

NAMES
Dlamini S
Malimba Z
Muhlahlo T
Malueka V
Valtyn M
Motloi L
Mahlatsi T
Malada T

## SPORTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

NAME
Ndabana L (2012058547@ufs4life.ac.za)
Lengolo K
Siwela N
Miya S
Mashele T
Mahlasela M
Wizzard N
Vungu-Vungu S
Nyathi S

## STUDENT MEDIA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

NAMES
Zwane Z
Klaas S
Nthabeleng
Molefi T
Wisani S



## MEDIA AND MARKETING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

NAMES
Kayurin Govender
Maureen Hlakudi-
Thato Magakare
Tumelo Mabula-
Sihle Nyikana
Tsholofelo Motswenyane
Zimkhithat Loko

## ACADEMIC STUDENT COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

NAMES
Strauss D
Osman S
Marumo O
Ts'ilo M
Nts'onyana B
Jona A
De Jager K
Dludla M
Mkabile N
Bolofo L

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Cynthia T
Modiehi S
Mihle N
Tinashe S
Anesu C
Bongani N



*Annexure B: Thuso Desk*

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## Vision

Our vision is to ensure access and support to the students of the University of the Free State.

## Mission

What do we do?

- This help desk wishes to communicate information regarding bursaries, internships, and vacancies to the student community.
- The help desk also wishes to implement a stationery bank.
- Students who are in need of essentials such as textbooks and food, will also be assisted.

How do we do it?

- Internal partnerships with Student Associations, Campus residences, NSH, and other relevant stakeholders of the University of the Free State.
- Creating external relationships and partnerships with different companies and government institutions.

## **The Thuso Desk will implement the following:**

### INFORMATION

Duties will be divided among the offices of First Generation Students, Student Development and Environmental Affairs and Student Accessibility and Support. Information that is available shall be shared through Blackboard, the SRC Facebook page, on social media platforms, Kopsie FM, and different residences and student associations shall also receive communiqués.

## **Sharing of duties:**

- The office of the SRC First Generation Students will be in charge of **BURSARIES**.
    - They will ensure that they go all out in ensuring that information regarding bursaries is communicated to the student community at large. They will also ensure that they contact different companies and government institutions to ensure that partnerships and relationships are created.
-



- The office of the SRC Student Development and Environmental Affairs will be in charge of **INTERNSHIPS**.
  - Their job is to make sure those internships that are available are made available to the student community, especially the final-years and students who are doing their postgraduates. They will also have to partner with different companies and government.
- The office of SRC Accessibility and Student Support will be in charge of **VACANCIES**.
  - This office will have to ensure that all Internal Vacancies are made available to final-year students and postgraduate students. They will have to partner with different departments on campus, and ensure that our students get first preference with regards to jobs that are available. The office will also have to ensure that they work in collaboration with the Career Development offices, to best assist students with CV writing, how to conduct themselves in interviews, etc. The team will also try to look at ways and strategies of how vacancies can reach students in the best way and how students can apply. The office will also be responsible for creating relationships and partnerships with different external companies and government institutions.

## **STATIONERY BANK**

Before the stationery bank can be placed anywhere on the UFS campus, it shall be a mobile bank:

- Every residence will have a box where students can donate stationery, your pens, rulers, pencils, erasers, notebooks, etc. This shall be coordinated by the **FCOM**, with the help of the RC First-years, and they will have to report back to the office of the First Generation EC.
  - Every association on campus will also have a box, where students will be able to make their donations. Each and every association must ensure that this drive is implemented regardless of whether they are a charity-based association or not. The Associations executive committee will also report to the office of the First Generation EC regarding progress and how many items were donated.
  - Approach shops and/or companies that sell stationery and ask for donations or sponsorships regarding this initiative.
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## FOOD AND TEXTBOOKS

This will be carried out and implemented by the office of the SRC Treasurer.

### FOOD

- The office will work with the office of the NSH, and also in collaboration with Charity-based Associations, in ensuring that essentials such as food are donated and are equally and fairly distributed between those who are in need.
- Because a lot of students who are on NSFAS and bursaries are swiping at PnP, Spar, Checkers, and Shoprite, the office will be responsible for approaching these companies to make a request for donations, and these donations will benefit students who need food. These companies will basically be giving back to us and it can also be done through gift vouchers.
- They will also approach the management of Mimosa Mall and Waterfront Mall for donations and sponsorship purposes.
- The office will be responsible for coming up with other strategies that can assist students who are in need of food.

### TEXTBOOKS

- The office will still be working with different Charity-based associations with regard to textbook collections and donations.
  - They will also ensure that they create internal and external partnerships and relationships with companies to ensure that this drive is implemented.
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## *Annexure C; SRC Fund*

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## KOVSIÉ'S BIGGEST BRAAI

### INTRODUCTION

VENUE: Cricket 1

THEME: TBA

Kovsie's Biggest Braai (KBB) is the University of the Free State's first social cohesion braai. KBB is a challenging, exciting, entertaining, fun and uniting initiative from the Bloemfontein Student Representative Council (SRC). The SRC has recognised the need for financial assistance to students, given the crisis of deregistration that the institution faced earlier in the year. Therefore, the SRC has taken the initiative to establish the SRC fund in line with the SRC mission of **ACCESS, SUPPORT, AND SUCCESS**. The following document provides an outline of the project.

### PURPOSE

The primary purpose of KBB is to tackle aim 1 of the SRC fund, which is to raise funds for the SRC fund and to create an opportunity for corporates to partner with the SRC in assisting students in need.

- The project aims to facilitate a socially cohesive platform for different stakeholders of the university to interact in a socially conducive environment.
- KBB is aimed at restoring a friendly and warming campus atmosphere for students and staff.
- KBB will be highly entertaining, challenging, exciting, and most importantly, KBB will be uniting. Uniting in the sense that it is an opportunity for the institution to collectively engage in one purpose and goal, while at the same time giving students, staff, and the community an opportunity to understand the depth of the problems that students face in their academic journey.

### DESCRIPTION

The idea behind KBB is to embrace the South African tradition of braaing, with Kovies coming together to enjoy a day with meat and beverages with their friends and colleagues. KBB will be set up in the form of a challenge:..

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- Firstly, participants will be challenged as to how much meat Kovies (the UFS community) can share with each other.
- Secondly, it will be a college challenge between the five colleges (North, South, East, West, and Central) of the Bloemfontein Campus, to see how much money each college will raise through buying meat, which will be measured in kilograms.
- Corporate partners and sponsors will be allocated space where they will market their brand and products.
- Student Entrepreneurs will also be given an opportunity to showcase their products and business to the UFS community.

## *PARTICIPANTS*

1. Colleges
2. Faculty departments
3. Staff
4. Independent registered students

## *DELIVERABLES*

The project aims to achieve the following deliverables

1. Fundraising - through sponsorships, space sold, and products sold.
2. Visibility - students and staff will get an opportunity to see what both the SRC and corporates are doing to address student funding issues.
3. Social cohesion - the KBB setting provides an opportunity for people from different backgrounds to meet and interact in one space.

## *SYSTEM*

KBB will be on cricket 1, which is an open field next to the new Education Building. The programme will have different performances throughout the day, with intervals used to update the crowd on how many kilograms of meat have been consumed as well as other challenges that will be facilitated by the MCs.

The purchase system will involve one pay point where vouchers will be given, which will then be used to pay for everything else on the floor. There will be a minimum of 12 braai stands which will be divided between the colleges, as well as an SRC stand. The SRC stand will be used for the pre-ordered plates from different departments to avoid pre-orders having to stand in line.

Student entrepreneurs will have a space allocated to them on which they will set up tables or stalls to showcase their products and services.

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## **Right 2 Learn Challenge**

### ***Objective***

Raise funds for poor, academically deserving students, stimulating conversation about access to higher education. A movement by students for students.

### ***Description***

Right to Learn (R2L) Challenge is a 10-day cycle tour from the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein to University of Cape Town to raise funds for academically talented students who cannot afford university fees.

The challenge aims to raise over R2 million, which will give access to 1 000 students by paying for their registration fees.

The first and most difficult milestone in a student's life is being able to register. Most students are deprived access in this stage, due to financial constraints. The majority of these students are indigent students and as such qualify for the National Students Financial Aid Scheme, however, due to the high volumes of applications and inefficiencies in the scheme's systems, they are not funded in time. By the time of university registration, they have not received response from the scheme and when they receive response, often granting the funding, they have already missed the university registration deadline.

Through this type of registration intervention, the university has been able to register 2 290 in 2014; 2 265 in 2015; 4 069 in 2016 and 5 183 students in 2017. These are students who would have gone home and who would not be able to register and study. On top of the general increase in the number of these students, through the tour alone we can add 1 000 more families to these numbers for 2018.

Education is a national priority and has a direct or indirect bearing on every citizen. The current calls for a free and quality education by the South African student population are legitimate and merely manifest the pain that has been suffered by our students and their families, particularly the poor.

Poverty is also a national crisis, and the best attempt to eradicate it is education, a basic right which many have been deprived of due to their socio-economic backgrounds.

The subject of Access to higher education should equally be a national one. Through the tour we want to engage every stakeholder in society behind this subject. Currently government's investment in higher education as a ratio of total GDP is 0.71%.

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The bilateral implication of this is firstly that government needs to stimulate its total spending towards higher education as a matter of urgency, and secondly, there needs to be a collective nationwide approach.

Through this challenge, we plead for the support of every member of society. Let us partner in educating just one more student, one more family, and ultimately the nation.

## R2L\_PC Tour

### Route

- ❖ The tour is from Bloemfontein (UFS) to Cape Town (UCT).
- ❖ The total kilometres covered is 1 006 km.
- ❖ The tour is over 10 days.
- ❖ The tour commences on 23 September and ends on 2 October 2017.

Day	Route	KM
Day 1: 23 September 2017	BFN – Springfontein	± 142 km
Day 2: 24 September 2017	Springfontein – Hanover	± 161 km
Day 3: 25 September 2017	<i>Rest Day</i>	
Day 4: 26 September 2017	Hanover – GaMamadi Guest farm	± 148 km
Day 5: 27 September 2017	GaMamadi Guest farm – Beaufort West	± 93 km
Day 6: 28 September 2017	<i>Rest Day</i>	
Day 7: 29 September 2017	Beaufort West – Laingsburg	± 198 km
Day 8: 30 September 2017	Laingsburg – De Doorns	± 124 km
Day 9: 1 October 2017	<i>Rest Day</i>	
Day 10: 2 October 2017	De Doorns – Cape Town	± 140 km
Total		± 1 006 km



## *Annexure D: Arts and Culture*

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## *Annexure D: Student Media*

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## **IRAWA Post report compiled by Editor-in Chief, Teboho Mpholo.**

In the second quarter of my term, following our request for catering during editorial weekends, Gerben made provision for R250 for the editorial weekends we had. We were able to work together as a team more efficiently. 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 made 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. ...

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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. 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 Kvsie TV and Kvsie 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 R100 as per our request of which Gerben still felt that it 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, Ground up, 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 Ground up 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 were. We had engagements with delegates from other newspapers and they also had similar grievances as we did.

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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.

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 received 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.

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## **KovsieFM report compiled by programme manager, Sam Ludidi.**

We are six months into the year and it has been quite a busy year for the station. As mentioned before, we started the year with a new marketing manager, who has been an acting programme manager. That being said, we are starting 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 underway. We have also renewed a few other sponsorships within the station.

We have also looked into getting hoodies and T-shirts as a marketing tool for the station, but have experienced 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 developed a new show at the station and are looking forward to team up with the Arts and Culture office for an exclusive on the Serenade competition taking place later this year.

With the implementation of new shows, our management team and the students who work at the station have to pull extra hours 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 great 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. Our management team also picks up extra expenses in this period, as there are various training sessions taking place to ensure the growth and success of the High School Internship Programme.

It has been a six-month period filled with growth. We are now looking forward to auditions in August, along with the Serenade sing-off competition – two things which are very crucial to us in the coming month.

Important to note, we had quite a few graduates from the station in the Class of 2016. Congratulations to them, and we wish them nothing but the very best moving forward from here.

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## KovsieTV report by channel manager, Thami

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 functionally by 2018.

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

We continue to have the issue of staffing which affects viewer 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 offices is a problem. This will be rectified through the installation of branding over the windows, so that the content is not 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.

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## *Annexure E: Student Parliament*



# **Student Parliament Establishment Sitting Minutes**

**Date:**  
**5 May 5 2017**

**Time:**  
**14:00**

**Venue:**  
**Senate Hall**

## **1. Opening and Welcome**

Ms Manyaiyi

- For the sitting, all student governance structures were invited
- It is an establishment sitting
- Sitting is composed of various student governance structures
- Not an agenda, but it is a programme to guard the election - can be opposed in number 3 of the programme

## **2. Apologies**

- LSIS - represented by Deputy Chair
- TASA - represented by Deputy Chair
- Legal Behemoth - represented by Deputy Chair
- Blue print - will arrive at 15:00
- Pink mike - will arrive at 15:00
- EAS - represented by Deputy Chair
- SRC Academics – will arrive late

Question: Have we already started the programme?

- Establishment sitting different to a first sitting
- Vice-President is the interim speaker until the first speaker is elected

Question: How can the Vice-President chair?

- Vice-President is the interim chair/speaker until the election
- All concerns must be raised under point 3

- ☐ A guiding document was sent to all councils.
  - Some associations did not receive the document
  - Section 7 of the SRC Constitution: clarifies the election process
-



Question: What is the capacity of the SRC?

- Isn't their capacity to account?
- How can the SRC give submissions for documents? If they are supposed to account
- *SRC is a full member, has speaking and voting rights*

### **3. Declaration of conflict of interest**

#### **Submission 1: Must understand the relationship between student parliament, student court, and the SRC**

- constitution must be reviewed
- SRC is the executive member of student parliament
- The issue of the Vice-President being the Secretary of the Parliament: conflict of interest of parliament

#### **Submission 2: Last year student parliament was established and a task team was elected in the sitting**

- The document we received was completely different to the one we are working with
  - The current guiding document, who adopted it?
  - The former SRC President single-handedly sent the constitution for adoption. But the general academic criteria were not part of the constitution.
  - A committee was proposed in parliament last year
    - ☐ Their task was to review the guiding document
    - ☐ The process was, however, never finalised due to the disruptions
    - ☐ Therefore, the document that was submitted was never finalised in parliament
  - The guiding document that was used, was taken out of the SRC constitution
    - ☐ It has not been finalised, still welcome for submissions
    - ☐ Must have been circulated to all councils
    - ☐ The office-bearers must look at the document, amend, and adopt it
    - ☐ The powers of the Vice-President ends after the election of office-bearers
-



### **Submission 3: We do not agree with the general election process**

- We do not have chief whips as of yet, how will we deal with that?
- With the SRC Constitution, there was no guiding document for whips

### **Submission 4: issues of voting**

- Who came up with the criteria for the nominees of office-bearers
- Academic criteria speak to the election of the SRC, not office-bearers
- They are people with good academics, but can't lead
- 60% must not be a criterion
- No academic criteria was drafted by the SRC, or office of the Vice-President

### **Submission 5: Where is the guiding document? When was it adopted?**

**Submission 6: Ask the house how we can work together to move forward in order to elect.**

**Submission 7: The problem with parliament is, it is a sub-structure of the SRC - SRC is recognised in HEA - therefore it cannot have a constitution as of yet.**

### **Submission 8: Composition of the interest group still in question**

- They did not receive guidelines
- Constituency doesn't have the guiding document
- Interest group? How do we find the eligibility?

### **Submission 9: Let's proceed with the voting**

- Two arguments: (1) constitution is correct, students must pass with a minimum of 60%
- (2) the criteria of the constitution is incorrect: must look at how it marginalises majority of black students and take into consideration the socio-economic factors of students
- Section 6.1 of the constitution

### **Submission 10: Look at an ad hoc committee**

- Must be composed of people who know how parliament is working
  - We can establish a parliamentary committee without parliament
  - Would have to elect speaker first
-



### **Submission 11: What legitimises the house?**

- The speaker? Or the composition of the members?
- What is this house? In terms of the house? What is the legitimacy of the house?
- Parliament is a multi-stakeholder
- Agreed to the meeting
- Agreeing with the parliament
- Vice-President was to assist with the issues that are raised
- The issues raised speak to the process that needs to happen to elect the house
- SRC Legal and Constitutional Affairs must assist in making a ruling

### **Submission 12: Do we meet quorum?**

### **Submission 13: First sitting must establish structures that will deal with the raised issues**

- The powers of the Vice-President ends after the election of the speaker
- She doesn't have power to elect committees

### **Submission 14: Criteria for parliament is not in the constitution for office-bearers**

- If elections will be opened - election will be next week as to allow the screening processes

### **Submission 15: Section 7A: 7.1**

- The house had a document last year as to how parliament must run. Where is that document?

### **Submission 16: Section 7D**

- It's either we accept the constitution or we do not. Or we adjourn the meeting?

### **Submission 17: To take it to a vote whether we agree to the constitution or not?**

- Any document that is being created and aligned with the SRC Constitution

### **Submission 18: Must think of the constituency, all members represented**

- Failure of election to produce, students won't be able to hold the council accountable
  - We are operating under the newly adopted constitution, last year June
-



**Submission 19: SRC has the powers to call for a committee**

- SRC meets quorum, it must elect

**Submission 20: Councils to convene their constituency and go through the document before the next sitting**

**Submission 21: Can the SRC take a stance in the meeting, give the students direction**

- The stance of the SRC is to establish a speaker so that the parliament functions effectively

**Submission 22: Members must know the difference between points of order and point of information**

**Submission 23: The collective of housing leadership being silent during submissions is worrisome**

- The stance of each and every prime is important for the house
- Constitution must be sent to all students

**Submission 24: Who will amend the constitution without office-bearers?**

- Student parliament doesn't have a constitution
- Nothing is binding

**Submission 25: Allow voting to take place**

- Create general rules we all agree on
- Can the election not follow the constitution?

**Submission 26: Time-frame must be added to the committee**

**Submission 27: When the task team reports, how will parliament adopt the documents or recommendations**

**Submission 28: Section 6.2.1**

- What will happen to the recommendations put forth by the ad hoc committee

**Submission 29: Elect a task team to challenge the 60%**

- Interested parties will email the Vice-President
  - Tomorrow morning before 11:00
  - They will meet on Wednesday
  - Friday the 12th we elect officials
-



**Submission 30: Task team to be elected in the parliament**

**Submission 31: How to operate now until we fix the constitution?**

- SRC has the powers to appoint. No election.

**Submission 32: To elect an interim structure to guide us**

- Cannot elect: no quorum

**Submission 33: A legal opinion on the powers of constitution must be sought**

**Submission 34: How is quorum met when there is no constitution?**

**Resolution 1: Because of the issues parliament is currently facing, we will adjourn the meeting and have elections on 12 May 2017.**

- All stakeholders wanting to challenge the academic criteria must liaise with the office of the Vice-President's Office.

**Resolution 2: Submission 29 was adopted, however, with compiling the task team volunteers came forth in the parliamentary sitting.**

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## *Annexure F: 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 for 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 which

I believe 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.

## **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 one which we might not necessarily have a concrete answer for...it is in principle agreed on 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 curriculum and accommodation of a larger black participation in these academic environments, and there has been overwhelming support of students at these events. This conversation is one 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 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.

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### **3. LGBTQIA+ Community**

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

Having presented the idea of a gender-neutral residence to the Rectorate and having received positive feedback, my plan is to 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 to draw awareness to the greater issue in society. The play is scheduled for mid-August.

### **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.

### **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.

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I have been trying to organise a meeting with Physical Resources for the past month, but have been receiving unfavourable feedback. In 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.

## **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 still complain about some of the practises that happen in residences which they feel uncomfortable about. 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.

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.

## **Conclusion:**

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. I will be documenting this journey in what we call the transformation charter, and it should form part of the institutional memory that can often guide us as a tool of reflection and prevent us from making the same mistakes.

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MONTH OF JULY 2017

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
3 Submission of reports	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Residence review commences ----- Safety week (activation on bridge) ----- Policy week	25 SW – activation (reg begins activation around CH/ EXR. As well as gates. Members to be in groups) ----- PW	26 SW (Shout theme. A dialogue with relevant stakeholder)	27 SW- symposium march	28	29 Nelson Mandela Day ----- Sports appreciation breakfast/lunch	30
31 Culture week (CW) ----- Student Affairs Week(SAW) ----- Submission of reports of all ECs for certificates						



## MONTH OF AUGUST 2017

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	1 CW SAW Mohau Training	2 CW  SAW	3 CW  SAW  LBGTI play	4 CW  Steve Biko House Launch (a lecture: on Steve Biko)  Entrepreneurs Day  Policy Summit (PS)  Business Day	5 Intravarsity  SAW  PS	6 PS
7 Green Week (GW)  International Student Week	8 GW	9 GW  Women's Day	10 GW Disability Day (Inclusive of a reflection dialogue. 8am-3pm)	11 GW  SRC Fund  Student Parliament	12 Kovsie Biggest Braai	13
14 Academic Week (AW)	15 AW	16 AW	17 AW PGSC Academic Session	18 Student Parliament  Thuso Desk Launch  AW	19 SER AW	20
21	22	23 Last Council Meeting	24	25 Student Parliament  Compiling of the SRC Report  Kovsie Student Awards	26 Residence Review Concludes	27