

SRC Presidency

1st Quarter Reports.



Quarterly report:

University of Pretoria
Student Representative Council 2023

Office of the Presidency

Njabulo Sibeko- SRC President
Neville Mupita- SRC Deputy President

I hereby swear that I, Njabulo Sibeko, the SRC President has drafted and approved this to be my report for Student Forum.

Project:	Timeframe:	Action/Activities	Outcome/Achieved Results:	Recommendations/Implications for Policy/Practice):
Establishment of the different task teams: Academic, Finance, Marketing and Media & Accommodation	Quarter 1	<p>The different task teams deal with their respective queries with the office of the President serving in each.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for coordinating aid when needed. • Produce creative solutions to pertinent student issues. • Liaise with external parties regarding any opportunities for UP students. 	<p>There were quite a few achievements by the respective task teams.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - After numerous engagements with private accommodations and the University, we were able to get the SRC's proposed solutions to be adopted and prices for private accommodations were dropped. This is still an ongoing process, and more updates will be provided. - Students who are still in the process of receiving their appeal outcomes have been allowed to continue with classes whilst awaiting their results so that they do not fall behind with schoolwork. - The aforementioned was also made available to students who were in the process of resolving any financial arrears. - The SRC was able to contribute money towards destitute students' historical debt and registration fee respectively. - Communication through our social media platforms remained seamless and quick during a very busy time on the ground. <p>These are just a few of the victories by the team.</p>	<p>Determine a scope of practice for the task teams and have it constituted. This will allow for legislated procedure on a respective teams establishment.</p>

Project:	Timeframe:	Action/Activities	Outcome/Achieved Results:	Recommendations /Implications for Policy/Practice):
Establishing the Fundraising Committee	Quarter 1 – 4	<p>The fundraising committee throughout this very busy quarter has met to discuss how it will be constituted and what will be the scope within which it works.</p> <p>The drafting of the funding document has been completed and we are in the process of identifying potential donors.</p> <p>The committee is chaired by the Treasurer General of the SRC and comprises of the President and Study Finance officer as well as representatives from faculty houses.</p>	<p>The funding plan has been drafted.</p> <p>The committee has had meetings with stakeholders such as Homecoming Events on fundraising initiatives and donations.</p> <p>We are in the process of fundraising.</p>	<p>More regular meetings.</p> <p>Greater participation from members.</p>

Project:	Timeframe:	Action/Activities	Outcome/Achieved Results:	Recommendations /Implications for Policy/Practice):
Meetings with SRC, Executive and external parties.	January	<p>The Office of the Presidency has chaired multiple meetings where binding SRC decisions are made.</p> <p>These are continuous meetings in which student issues are raised and dealt with.</p> <p>The Office of the Presidency also chaired a joint sitting of faculty houses, house committees and key committees.</p> <p>My office has also met with various university departments to solve student issues.</p>	<p>Through these sittings, the SRC has been able to achieve quite a few of the victories which have previously been mentioned. We were able to get the registration date extended, identify individuals keen on donating money to the SRC, mobilize support for the demonstration, review Plans of Actions of members, allow for accreditation process to be reopened and a whole lot more.</p> <p>This includes getting the registration fee to be reduced for all students to an affordable rate despite the increased registration fee in 2022, the SRC also presented numerous solutions to executive management, association for housing and NSFAS in regard to the cap. USAF, the University and NSFAS are currently engaging to find a solution amidst litigation.</p> <p>The office had also met with representatives from NSFAS in order to perform inspections on residences and private accommodations. We are also communicating with NSFAS through the University on the issue of NSFAS students whose statuses are yet to change from provisionally funded to funded.</p> <p>We are currently also in the process of portfolio check ups with SRC members to ensure that everyone is keeping to the standard to which we have set.</p>	

Project:	Timeframe:	Action/Activities	Outcome/Achieved Results:	Recommendations /Implications for Policy/Practice):
Help Desk Period	Quarter 1	<p>Planning for the registration process undertaken at LC Sports Campus.</p> <p>Identifying key issues which would need urgent intervention from the task teams.</p>	<p>Allowed for task teams to meet and decide on solutions. Our presence at LC meant that we were always readily available on the ground to directly assist with queries. We were able to have our inputs considered by DESA in tailoring a student-oriented registration help desk. Assisting students with admission, registration and placement.</p> <p>We also engaged members from the Department of Higher Education and Training on snags we faced during registration and issues which we believed were looming.</p>	

Project:	Timeframe :	Action/Activities	Outcome/Achieved Results:	Recommendations /Implications for Policy/Practice):
Coordinating Internal SRC Affairs	Quarter 1	Through Updating the SRC Code of Conduct and assisting SRC member in making their initiatives a success. Providing resources to members and directing members to the right channels if ever in need of assistance	<p>Improved communication: Coordinating internal affairs helped team members to communicate more effectively and efficiently with each other. This led to better understanding, fewer misunderstandings, and improved productivity.</p> <p>Better collaboration: By coordinating internal affairs, team members worked together more effectively to achieve common goals. This collaboration helped to build trust and respect among team members, which can improve the team dynamics and ultimately led to better outcomes.</p> <p>Clearer roles and responsibilities: Coordinating internal affairs helped to clarify each team member's role and responsibilities. This reduced confusion and duplication of effort, which led to more efficient use of resources.</p> <p>Enhanced problem-solving: Made the SRC better equipped to identify and address problems that arose. By working together to find solutions, we overcame obstacles more quickly and effectively.</p> <p>Increased accountability: Coordinating internal affairs ensured that team members are accountable to each other and to the team as a whole..</p>	



Residences Task Team Quarterly Report

University of Pretoria Student Representative Council 2023

21 March 2023

Members: Vhutshilo Muambadzi (Residences 1)

Francois Du Plessis (Residences 2)

Karabo Lefete (Day Students and External Campus Affairs)

Sphesihle Makhanya (Transformation and Student Success)

Katlego Modise (Sports)

We hereby swear that we, Vhutshilo Muambadzi and Francois Du Plessis, the SRC Residences 1 and 2 Office alongside the Residence Task Team has drafted and approved this to be the report for Student Forum.

Tuks Residences

Summer School Accommodation

Summer school started on the 23rd of January and ended on the 4th of February. This required students to be in Pretoria for this period as classes were face-to-face. Tuks Residence students were able to apply for early accommodation and stay on the Hillcrest Campus (either in Azalea or the Tower) for the duration of summer school until they could move to their respective residences. On the other hand, an issue arose with students who stayed in private accommodations or who were still on the waiting list to be accepted into Tuks Residences. There were several reasons for this. 1. NSFAS Private Accommodation students were only receiving funding in February when university started therefore, they could not afford to put themselves in debt that they were going to be unable to cover personally. 2. Private accommodation students were not in the financial position to pay an upfront fee for summer school and staying in a Tuks Residence did not require that of you. This left us with a huge influx of students who had no accommodation for the summer school period.

The SRC approached Tuks Residence and asked if they were willing to accommodate private accommodation students during summer school and charge them on their university account.

TuksRes was willing to help on a case-by-case basis but made it very clear that not every student would be able to be assisted for their own given reasons such as:

1. Only Azalea and the Tower were prepped to accommodate students so early in the year which means only +/- 500 rooms were available. From the rooms available, there were already Tuks Residence early accommodation students occupying the rooms who were there for different reasons themselves eg. Summer school, TuksSport training, assisting Tuks with the help desk period etc.
2. Some students that approached the SRC were academically excluded and therefore TuksRes unfortunately could not access their profile on their system due to them not being an official student under the University of Pretoria.

We were able to assist approximately 50-60 private accommodation students in getting them Tuks Residence accommodation for the summer school period and we hope that the platform can become an even bigger one for the next term to come so that more students can be given access to accommodation regardless of their affiliation. Further, through this platform, we were able to place students in Tuks Residences permanently for the year.

Help Desk Period

There was an influx of students during this period who were awaiting acceptance from Tuks Residences. Although we made it clear to help every student that approached the SRC, our priority were the first years as Orientation Week was fast approaching and the first year move in date was the 4th of February.

We approached Tuks Residence with this issue and they proposed creating an excel spreadsheet where the Residence offices could note all emergency cases and first year cases of students who were on the waiting list. Tuks Residence would then assess this through a

case-by-case basis and assist where placements were available. The Residence offices and the Tuks Residence placement team had access to this excel sheet and attended to it every Monday and Wednesday. We were able to place approximately +/- 100 students through this process.

Post the Help Desk Period

The SRC's focus was shifted towards second years and up in this period. During this time, the NSFAS accommodation cap was announced on top of the ordinary day to day accommodation challenges we faced so the influx of students needing Tuks Residence accommodation was more than we could capacitate. We continued with the excel spreadsheet, accommodating and prioritising the Seniors more as their move in weekend was approaching. We then took the escalation procedure a step further and at times went directly to Duxbury where there were students who showed up in Hatfield with bags and no place to stay or had to be accommodated quicker than the excel sheet process and we were able to place them permanently in a Tuks Residence.

We continue to try and assist students everyday who are still on the waiting list for Tuks Residences or who have unique issues within their respective residence.

We have been able to place atleast +/- 150 students to date in Tuks Residences of their choice.

Private accommodations

We established a private accommodation sub council in January and February and this was to assist in information being transferred between the SRC accommodation task team and private accommodation. We wanted to close the existing gap between private accommodation students and the SRC as well as being more involved in matters concerning private accommodations as the University tends to shy away from addressing these issues. We were unable to include all UP accredited private accommodations due to the following reasons:

- Some electoral procedures for the year 2023 had not been established
- Concerns of the POPI act were mentioned
- Some accommodations did not respond to the email

The SRC was involved in inspecting 3 accommodations that applied for accreditation. These accommodations included AVIDA, CampusKey Glen and Brooklyn Studios.

AVIDA:

We noted that it was affordable and had spacious rooms. The environment was safe and the accommodation provided a good living space for a student. The following concerns were brought to the attention of the TuksRes accreditation team and these were that

- The laundry facilities were inadequate.
- The number of washing machines could not cater for the magnitude of students that the building is set to cater for.
- The lighting in the shared rooms was not sufficient as it only lights for the one side of the room.

- Hygiene concerns, a unit catering for 9 students only gets cleaned once a month which is problematic and the study area does not have proper ventilation.

Suggestions that were made to the TuksRes accreditation team included:

- The window on the 9th floor needs bars in front of it
- An extra desk and more seating should be added to the common area
- The study room needs to have added ventilation for winter as well as extra plugs.
- The addition of a few computers would be an added bonus.
- The emergency gathering spot needs to be changed
- The cleaning services need to come to clean at least 4 times a week if they cannot come daily

Campus Key Block A

The SRC members inspected the room that caused the fire last year. However, it was brought to our attention that the same event can occur again as no measure or systems have been put in place to prevent such. Their fire plan and systems were still not updated which creates a life-threatening hazard for students.

Areas of concern that were noted included:

- There are no tangible changes that were made to ensure that the fire incident is not repeated.
- The prices are not affordable to NSFAS students in light of the accommodation allowance price cap.

Brooklyn Studios

It's a premium living environment and since it is a recently built accommodation, everything is well in order and maintained.

Areas of concern that were noted:

- There is insufficient quantity of security personnel. However, they did express that it is a work in progress.
- The main access to the building is on the open and exposed to the street causing a safety hazard as students are left vulnerable and exposed to criminal activities such as snatch and grab.
- Prices of the accommodation are not NSFAS friendly, therefore, the accommodation cannot be NSFAS accredited, but rather NSFAS recognized as NSFAS is capped at R45 000 and the least expensive room is R8 030 (10 months) which forces an NSFAS funded student to top up with R3 530

As a task team we identified a common pattern among leases being signed by students. Students need to engage and read their lease agreements and the conditions and clauses attached to them before signing. The SRC is unable to assist in getting out of these lease agreements as once signed they become binding contracts and agreements between the student and the private accommodation at hand

NSFAS ACCOMMODATION RENTAL FEE ALLOWANCE CAPPING

The accommodation crisis began on the release of the 2023 NSFAS Funding eligibility criterion. This criterion came as both a shock and a detriment to a magnitude of the recipients as the changes were not feasible and meant that a large portion of the NSFAS recipients could therefore not be able to afford accommodation in Hatfield without having to contribute exorbitantly high top up amounts. This updated criterion stipulated the following in accordance to accommodation allowance:

- For **university managed and catered accommodation** the cap was stipulated to be R 60 750 (Which includes the dining hall meal allowance)
- For **university managed self-catering** the cap was stipulated to be R 45 000.

The above allowance changes were insufficient to fully pay for a basic room in both the private and the TUKS owned accommodation in Hatfield as the general prices were said to be as follows:

- For **UP owned accommodation** in 2023 prices were between R 52 700 – R 81 900.
- For **Private accommodations** in 2023 prices were R 65 000+

(NB as per information sent by the office of Prof Tawana Kupe to Mr Andile Nongogo on the 30th of January 2023)

In light of the above information the accommodation task team led by the Residence Officers went on a series of engagements with numerous service providers in hope to persuade them to meet the NSFAS recipients 'halfway'. However, most of these engagements were not fruitful due to the fatuous and proud conduct of the vacuous draconian capitalists who prioritized profits over the academic future of many student. The engagements were as follows:

Respublica, made it very clear that they are not willing to accommodate the NSFAS students who have proven that they are financially incapable of topping up approximately R 2 000 for their cheapest rooms. However, they did express that they are exploring and engaging with external bursars to raise funds for the top ups.

- **Feenstra Group** which owns four accredited private accommodations (Varsity studios, Hatfield Studios, Studios at Burnett and Festival's Edge) pompously expressed that they would rather lock their doors then drop their prices to accommodate the destitute students. However, they communicated that they would be willing to stand in solidarity with the SRC to fight NSFAS (whatever that means).

- **TMM Lofts** portrayed great ignorance to the R45 000 cap. Upon deliberation with the SRC they were unbothered and expressed that they will maintain their rental prices as already stipulated. Which was truly disgusting considering the fact that 500 beds out of the 804 beds (62%) were occupied by NSFAS students in the previous year (2022). The representative also stated that the executive management has not met and had no prior intentions of meeting to discuss the matter at hand.

- **Apartments On Williams** stipulated that they have already attempted to meet the NSFAS students halfway by dropping their rental prices by R 99.00 from R 6 199 to R 6 100 and are not willing to drop any further.

- **City properties (The Fields)** despite countless efforts to arrange a meeting with their representatives, they were not willing to meet the SRC in regard to the matter.

- **South Point** could not be reached.

- **Rise Student Living @UOP** expressed great empathy and willingness to assist

students possibly by lowering their rental prices to accommodate the NSFAS students. However, we are still awaiting the final verdict from their executive's board meeting.

Amongst the service provided consulted was TUKS Res and the Financial Aid office to determine the university's stance on the matter. This is where the task team was then made aware of an Appeal letter that was sent from the Vice Chancellor's office to NSFAS requesting for an exemption on basis of accommodation costs in Hatfield.

Within the series of engagements, the SRC also met with the different leadership structures within the institution to conscientize them on the NSFAS price capping issue predicament. These deliberations were hosted by the SRC and facilitated by the SRC President. This led on to a meeting with the university's management where the SRC was to engage on the proposed solutions document which was sent prior to the meeting. The solutions that were proposed by the SRC are as listed below:

- Students residing in TuksRes cannot finish their 2023 year with a debt ,because they will be stuck with the financial hold in 2024, as such the university should subsidize all NSFAS students to protect their students from debt and homelessness and lastly the inability to register the following year. The SRC made it clear that it is against TuksRes subjecting NSFAS recipients to signing Acknowledgement Of Debt (AODs).

- The Accommodation task team then proposed that the accredited Accommodation list be revised, and any accommodation that doesn't cater for students financially should be unaccredited.
- The task team then proposed that in order to deal with accommodations that refuse to drop their prices, the university needs to make a deal with the few willing accommodations around Hatfield to accommodate all NSFAS funded students with the capped amount of accommodation allowance.
- The task team also proposed that the university needs to negotiate on behalf of the students to allow interim leases to be signed.

However, management was not willing to visit these proposed solutions instead they suggested it to be “challenging Academia” when the SRC was wanting feedback as to why these proposed solutions may not be implemented. It is in this meeting that the SRC was disheartened by the management's lack of willingness to implement proposed solutions. But also, most importantly, the SRC in this meeting learnt about the rejection of the earlier sent exemption request. This marked the exhaustion of all bureaucratic processes and therefore the SRC saw it fit to host a peaceful demonstration outside Duxbury 90.

The demonstration outside Duxbury 90 took place from the 16th of February until the 18th of February with the support of different student bodies, structures and the group of churches around Hatfield (Op Die Stoep). Through engagements with various stakeholders the SRC was able to acquire mattresses, food and water for the students who were destitute and abandoned by the university, NSFAS and private accommodation.

In the midst of the demonstration the SRC was made aware of the interim solutions that the private accommodations were willing to implement. The interim solutions adopted included:

- **Rental Concessions:** These rental price concessions would be applying to specific room types addressing the capped NSFAS accommodation allowance to enable students to find suitable accommodation as proposed by the SRC.
- Standard sharing bedrooms that requires no top ups.
- Other rooms would require top ups which would be moderately adjusted in accordance to NSFAS rates.

In light of the above information, the SRC saw it fit to pause all demonstrations with a clear indication that shall the need arise; all demonstrations shall re-commence. Time after the demonstration, a new issue arose. Students awaiting either their NSFAS appeals feedback or their academic appeal feedback were evicted from private accommodations and left homeless. The Task team had to then establish a relationship with the surrounding churches such as ELIM church to try organize emergency accommodation for the destitute students.

SRC Academic Task Team

1st Quarter Reports.



Quarterly report:

University of Pretoria
Student Representative Council 2023

Zeenat Patel (Academics 1)
Sandile Manoni (Academics 2)
Captain Shongwe
Karabo Mogale

We herby swear that as Zeenat Patel and Sandile Manoni, the SRC Academic Officers, have drafted and approved this to be our report for Student Forum.

Introduction

- This report serves to outline the main matters addressed by the Academic task team of the UP SRC from the beginning of the year till such of time of the publishing of this report.
- Some matters reported on are ongoing at the time of the publishing of this report.
- Matters not relevant to the functioning of the academic task team but conducted by the SRC office of academics have not been included in this report and will be reported on in the quarter 2 report.

Academic Exclusions and Appeals

Actions/Activities

The office of academics handled a large number of matters related to academic exclusions and appeals as list:

- Created and provided online resources regarding appeals. This includes the SRC statement released in December 2022 through the 2022 UP SRC providing guidance on appeal letters, supporting documents and related advice, a set of posters summarising the content of the aforementioned statement, a statement providing information on the Senate Review Committee on Readmission and campus/clickUP access for students awaiting appeal outcomes.
- Assisting with issues related to campus and clickUP access for students awaiting appeal outcomes. This included communicating with DESA and Faculties on challenges regarding access as well as providing lists of students facing difficulties to relevant parties.
- Queries regarding appeals and exclusions from students were answered. This included requests to review appeal letters, questions regarding the appeal process, submission of appeals via the UP portal and due dates for appeal submissions. The academic task team was provided with a guidelines document from the office of academics to assist with these queries.
- Through the office of academics, liaising with the academic sub-council regarding appeal related matters. This included collecting information on appeal submission due dates, contact details on relevant persons to contact for appeal escalation and updates regarding the appeals process and release of outcomes in faculties. This information was utilized by the academic task team to advise students. The EBIT Faculty House was consulted regarding their appeals process given the high number of exclusions in the faculty.

Academic Exclusions and Appeals

Actions/Activities

- Liaising with Faculties regarding appeals related matters. This included raising concerns on specific student queries on behalf of students such as cases where students were unable to submit their appeals on time and other instances where students were unable to resolve matters through direct communication with Faculties. Furthermore, several broader issues were raised with certain Faculties were raised such as the long waiting time for appeal outcomes in the NAS faculty.
- The office of academics is represented on the Senate Review Committee for Readmission. In this role, the academic officers have represented and advocated for students' interests during the sittings of this committee.

Outcome/Achieved Results

- A substantial number of students were provided with useful resources and assistance in regards to their appeals.
- Most students who initially indicated challenges with campus and clickUP access while awaiting appeal outcomes provided feedback indicating the matter was resolved.
- Measuring the outcome of these activities remains challenging given the difficulties associated with measuring the success of these initiatives.

Academic Exclusions and Appeals

Recommendations

- Feedback be provided to Faculties on the various challenges students experienced during the appeal process and possible solutions to these challenges. The office of academics has discussed plans to undertake this through the academic sub-council.
- Exploring more widely used and accessible modes for the distribution of appeal related information.

Admissions

Actions/Activities

The academic task team assisted with a number of admission related matters:

- Queries from students who were not admitted to any program or not admitted to a preferred program. These cases were discussed with representatives of DESA where task team members provided motivation as to why students should be considered for admission e.g. student rejected based on grade 11 marks but improved significantly in grade 12.
- Queries from students whose studies were interrupted and were facing difficulties returning to their studies as they did not submit an application for the 2023. These matters were discussed with faculty administration on a case by case basis.
- Queries from students coming from the disadvantaged backgrounds that were unable to, for various reason, either complete an application or start an application. These were students that did very well in their studies and have exceptional matric results.

Admissions

Outcomes/Achieved Results

- A significant number of first year students whose applications were rejected or who were admitted but wanted to change their study program were admitted into various programs.
- From the information provided by students, a number of the admitted students had not attempted to apply or gain admission elsewhere indicating this activity benefited students without an alternative study option for 2023.
- Due to the general regulation stating that students must apply for admission if their studies were interrupted, challenges were faced with admission of students in this position. There were, however, a few instances where students in this situation were admitted.

Recommendations

- Promote greater awareness of the University's regulations to inform students seeking admission after an interruption in their studies of the requirement to submit an application.
- Promote an awareness of the fact that should a student not be able to study for the year, depending on the reasons, they ought to apply for a leave of absence.
- Encourage structures that reach out to high school students like JT and TULIP to follow up with the applications they initiate with students in order to ensure that it is completed.

Summer School

Actions/Activities

- Queries, largely related to the registration process, eligibility to register for summer school and summer school financing, were answered. The task team largely made use of the module specific information published on the University's website for this.
- Queries regarding participation in summer school while excluded. The task team advised students based on the regulations set by the students' respective faculties.
- Concerns regarding summer school participation requirements for SWK 122. The EBIT Faculty House was consulted and, through the Faculty House, student's concerns looked into on a case by case basis.

Outcomes/Achieved Results

- Students were provided with the necessary information and a number of misconceptions, amongst others including that you pay for summer school yourself and NSFAS does not cover, were cleared.
- Through information from the EBIT Faculty House, clarification was provided on entry requirements for SWK 122.

Recommendations

- Communique should be released to students well in advance providing general information around summer school.
- Discussion with faculties regarding their approach to excluded students attending summer school given the confusion experienced by some students.

Chancellors Exams

Actions/Activities

- Queries, largely related to the registration process and eligibility, were answered. Some queries appear to have arisen due to inadequate communication from Faculties.
- Through the office of academics, the academic sub-council was consulted and information on the process in each faculty was provided to the task team.

Outcomes/Achieved Results

- Student were provided with the necessary information related to Chancellors Exams.
- In the few cases where students did not meet the requirements to write the exams, the task team, unfortunately, was largely unsuccessful in motivating for exceptions based on students' circumstances.

Recommendations

- Consultation with faculties on process and publishing of Chancellor Exam related information early in the year.

Registration

Actions/Activities

The academic task team assisted with a number of registration related matters:

- Assisting students, particularly first years, who were unfamiliar with the UP portal with registration.
- With the assistance of the social media task team, published the last day for registration of modules and, through the academic officers, requested the academic sub-council to publish relevant registration information.
- Largely through the SRC Help Desk on Hillcrest campus, consulted the various departments and Faculties to resolve registration related issues such as issues related to contacts.
- Assisted students unable to register their first semester modules themselves due to late registration by consulting with the relevant Faculties.

Outcomes/Achieved Results

- A substantial number of students were assisted with the registration process.
- Assistance was particularly valuable in cases where students were unable to travel to Hillcrest campus themselves.

Recommendations

- Publication of more and promotion of existing resources to assist with online registration.

General Academic Queries

Actions/Activities

- Outside of the common matters addressed by the academic task team, there were a small number of other queries related to exam results, timetables and other miscellaneous matters.
- Directing of finance and accommodation related queries to relevant task teams when basic information provided was insufficient.

Outcomes/Achieved Results

- Student queries were answered and relevant departments or faculties contacted on behalf of the student where necessary.

Recommendations

- Due to the small number of queries for several different matters addressed in this point, there are no overarching recommendations.



1st Quarter Reports.

SRC Finance Task
Team

Quarterly report:

University of Pretoria
Student Representative Council 2023

Finance Task team

Khanyi Mahlangu 16379163, Study Finance

Njabulo Sibeko , President

Lauren Mbali Thabethe, Treasurer

Neville Mupita 18060120, Deputy President

Phenyo Matabane, Secretary

I hereby swear that I, Khanyi Mahlangu, the SRC Study Finance Officer, has drafted and approved this to be my report for Student Forum.

Project:	Timeframe:	Action/Activities	Outcome/Achieved Results:	Recommendations/Implications for Policy/Practice):
Communication with students pertaining to financially related matters	January 3 rd , 2023 till date	Sending students information pertaining to their matters	Students received the correct information about how to go about getting assistance	Early communication should be sent out in the beginning of the year via clickUP and the SRC's social media platforms to answer all the frequently answered questions to make sure that the students have the information available to them early
Communication to students pertaining to NSFAS related queries	January 6 th - till date	First communication sent out to students with regards to the NSFAS holds that many still had	Student queries were answered	
Funding for postgraduate students (registration fee)	January 11 th - March 2 nd , 2023	A list of postgraduate students in need of the registration fee was sent to the Postgraduates office	Postgraduates received the R10 000 registration and managed to register	Students with historical debt from their undergraduate studies need to also be considered when they have arrangements in place with Student Accounts should also be eligible to apply, regardless of the amount of their historical debt
Meetings (to come up with solutions we could send out to students to assist and help with more queries)	Spread across the month of January till date	Communication sent out pertaining NSFAS matters and any other finance related matters to students on the SRC's social media	Students received answers to their queries and were kept up to date with all things related to Finances	

Project:	Timeframe:	Action/Activities	Outcome/Achieved Results:	Recommendations/Implications for Policy/Practice):
Assist students with creating financial arrangements for them to register	January 24 th 2023 – March 10 th , 2023	Get arrangements in place for students with Student accounts when they had historical debt prohibiting them from registering	Students with historical debts had their holds lifted and were able to register for the 2023 academic year	
Engagement with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)	February 8 th , 2023	The aim was to make the Department representatives aware of the catastrophic impact that the NSFAS capped amount on accommodation had on students	The council was assured that the matter would be looked into and that we should receive feedback.	NSFAS representatives need to be present in meetings with the Department as the DHET representatives could not answer most of our NSFAS related questions leading to a utile back and forth.
SRC Study Aid Fund	February 3 rd , 2023- March 14 th , 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing the criteria for the first and second round of applications for the Study Aid 	Students with and without historical debt managed to get registered	A larger budget be allocated by the University for the Study Aid fund as we saw that the need far exceeded the funds we had available to assist students

SRC Social media task team report

1st Quarter Reports.



Quarterly report:

University of Pretoria
Student Representative Council 2023

TASK TEAM MEMBERS

Thokozane Zwane- Marketing, media and communications

Jaryd Grobler- Student Culture

Christo Pretorius- Deputy Secretary

Pule Nkadiemeng- RAG

I hereby swear that I, Thokozane Zwane the SRC Marketing, media and communications has drafted and approved this to be my report for Student Forum.

Project:	Timeframe:	Action/Activities	Outcome/Achieved Results:
Help desk	23 Jan to 3 Feb 2023	<p>The social media task team assisted students physically at Hillcrest Campus during the registration period. Additionally to this, the students that could not attend physically were assisted on our social media platforms (intsagram, twitter and facebook).</p>	<p>A large number of students were assisted because they could reach the SRC both physically and via social media platforms which gave the SRC as a whole a greater chance of assisting more students with various issues.</p>

Project:	Timeframe:	Action/Activities	Outcome/Achieved Results:
Societies marketing week and external campus activations	6 Mar to 22 Mar 2023	The marketing task team helped with relaying information for the societies marketing week and the external campuses activations. Furthermore the task team created content for social media to show the campuses we visited.	Students were well informed about societies marketing week and they knew when to expect the SRC on their respective campus.

Project:	Timeframe:	Action/Activities	Outcome/Achieved Results:
Social media engagement	January- present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The task team continues to assist students that send their concerns on our social media platforms. We continue to refer students to relevant departments to ensure that they get the assistance they need. ➤ We ensure that any information that the student need is posted on our social media platforms. 	Most students that were referred to the various department that would assist them came back with a positive feedback.

Project:	Timeframe:	Action/Activities
First Year Survival Guide	January – 22 Mar 2022	We worked on the first year survival guide which is meant to welcome the first years to the institution and give them information on the structures that exist and how they can successfully transition from high school life to tertiary life. The guide is meant to provide the first years with essential information

- The task team worked with every portfolio in the SRC to ensure that information gets to the student body as soon as possible which kept the students informed of key issues that affect them.