

**University of Pretoria
Student Representative Council 2017/18**

YEARLY REPORT

Drafted by: Lihle Ngubane

In her capacity as: Transformation and Student Success Portfolio Holder



Name: Lihle Ngubane		Portfolio: Transformation and Student Success		Time Frame: September 2017 – December 2018
Project:	Timeframe	Action/Activities	Outcome/Achieved Results	Recommendations/Implications for Policy/Practice)
Onderstepoort Transformation Inquiry	September 2017	Transformation procedures were instituted from the SRC's side after I was informed of the non-compliance with the quota in both the House Committee and the Faculty House. The matter was raised with TuksRes as well as their then dean. As the SRC collective, we attended a 'mass' meeting with the Onderstepoort Residence House Committee Members, some members from the OPVSC Faculty House and African Fellows. The process was presided over by a representative from the dean's office. We toured the Old Res and took note of various discriminatory and spatially exclusionary signs. The House Committee was addressed in this regard and said to remove them. Further investigation in this regard is set to take place in	Successful	

		<p>the 2018 year. The key issue discussed was that of Old Res being exclusively male and Afrikaans and the corridor placement issue. The matter was then taken to Institutional Forum for investigation where the dean was to be called to account at an extraordinary meeting. Unfortunately, that meeting could not take place and the matter was thus carried over to the 2018 IF meeting. The process will now be instituted with the attention of the new/acting dean as the previous dean has renounced his position.</p>		
	<p>October</p>	<p>Following up on OP Transformation, I was informed that the African Fellows Society had previously conducted a survey, in consultation with the then dean about residence placement. Of 655 residents, 312 took part. From this, it was established that residence placement was presided over by the House Committee and Admin exclusively, and is based on academics and house points only. From the SRC, it was thus identified that need and distance from the residence should also be considered factors. Other issues such as house points, culture activities and corridor placement were investigated. The survey reflects a majority satisfaction with the current culture. This, however could be contested taking into consideration the 2016/17 demographics of the residence, with a split of 70/30 white to black students. Therefore, the residence itself must align with the transformation goals of TuksRes, which includes aspects such as centralised placement to avoid a concentrate of one race in one block.</p> <p>This was raised at Institutional Forum which was to be formally attended to by TuksRes and the Dean of Veterinary Faculty in May 2018.</p>		

UP&Out Pride Week	September	SRC was invited to attend the UP&OUT PRIDE Week from the 26 th of September, ending off with a silent march around the Hatfield Campus where we helped with posters and placards.		
SRC Helpdesk	January 2018	Registration Helpdesk duties: I was part of the Enrolment Committee and also helped with the emergency and temporary placement of students during the registration crisis period.		
Registration Crisis Shuttle Service	January February	Transport Shuttle Initiative: I was approached by students who has coordinated an initiative to provide a free shuttle service for students moving into Hatfield from remote areas via public transport. The shuttle would run from a central taxi station. I proposed this collaboration opportunity to the SRC executive, however, due to the heavy load of the Help desk, the matter could not be attended to.		This is a key opportunity that needs special attention. Key factors to consider: a) Vehicles b) Licensed and trusted drivers if not UP licensed drivers c) Safety: Identity of the driver and the student must be ascertainable and confirmed by SRC or executive team members when boarding the vehicle d) Petrol funds e) Centralised pick up points f) Contingency plans/ referral system for students without accommodation
Women of Worth	From February	Collaborations with Golden Key Society and Young Corporate Leaders for the Women of Worth event were begun. The date and venue were confirmed. It was later discovered that there was miscommunication regarding this, however the venue was nonetheless secured.		Ensure that the poster advertises the pad drive.

OP SOGIE Awareness	February/March	CSA&G was contacted regarding offering support to the OP Campus. The Centre showed willingness to collaborate in bringing such support. The Faculty House continued the journey with the CSA&G. With the help of the incoming formally constituted Transformation SubCouncil, this can be completed not only for the OP Campus but for all external campuses as well.		The faculties will soon have convenient access to have formal SOGIE training or support if necessary.
Transformation Subcouncil Launch	May	This was meant to be the launch of a SubCouncil so that all the plans could be aligned to fulfil holistic, campus-wide campaign of transformation. This failed dismally with very low attendance due to not being bound to the idea. Having identified this as a pivotal issue which influenced more activities that could have been better coordinated with the participation of all faculties, I ensured that the Transformation SubCouncil is formally recognised in the Constitution for Student Governance. This was approved by Council and the formal launch will happen in October to ensure a smooth handover to the incoming SRC Transformation and Student Success portfolio holder.	In progress	All plans should preferably align to ensure that the university as a whole moves in one direction and had similar or complementary goals for transformation.
Policy on Responding to needs of Trans and Intersex Students and Employees	From 4 May 2018	The Centre for Sexualities, AIDS and Genders has initiated a process towards drafting this policy. It began with a focus group constituted by the centre including a trans student (with views from a few trans people captured in the drafting process), the centre for Human Rights, Student Support, UP&OUT, TuksRes and the SRC. The draft was created and edited with consideration to international university standards. Upon the drafting of the policy, a strategic plan was also created to ensure that Sexuality Orientation, Gender Identities and Expressions (SOGIE) education would be implemented (before the implementation of the policy	In progress	This will help staff dealing with employees or students that are either transitioning or have transitioned and wish to have their genders changed on their documents (to reflect their new identities) or for students who have been misgendered in the binary residence spaces or any student affected by intersex or trans gender-prejudice.

		and gender-neutral restrooms) on a widespread note from the Residences to the Faculty and Day Houses in the coming year. This will help the incoming SRC should they wish to formally adopt the Mx gender pronoun as in other national universities which have begun the trend.		
Institutional Forum: Transformation at Onderstepoort	10 April	Various role players in ensuring transformation were called to account for the discrepancies at the campus. The new dean, the residence vice principal, director were amongst the management. Members of the SRC further reiterated proposals from last year November and the Chair noted them for presentation at Council. Transformation at Onderstepoort is finally under close scrutiny and university management has committed to fostering the UP 2025 journey, focusing on key issues such as residence placement, language and diversity.	Successful	Students must constantly engage the SRC should they feel that the proposed changes are not being implemented.
House Renaming of Boekenhout	23 July	I attended the house meeting on the Res renaming of Boekenhout and it was successful. All objectives were clearly communicated and the residence complied. The name will be revealed soon.	Successful	
Problemactivism Seminar	30 July 2018	The event took place and the speaker spoke of activism, touching slightly on key issues of consent and toxic masculinity. The event was under-attended by the SRC. The marketing of the event was also poor resulting in poor attendance. The channels that the SRC has access to were not adequately used (if at all, in some instances). The marketing officer was requested to help regarding the marketing aspects of the event, including the creation and distribution of the poster. There was no capturing of the event from a marketing perspective. The event commenced	(Un)successful	Outline the key topics to be covered in detail. Follow up pedantically on tasks allocated to fellow SRC members. Constantly remind the SRC and ask on time if the target audience has indeed received communicate. Thereafter, conduct an evaluation to see if the target market received the information well and whether it was,

		<p>late to allow for people to 'gain in numbers'. The event was overall ineffective from a technical project management point of view but the audience that attended enjoyed the engagements as pertinent discussions arose in the QnA session.</p>		<p>in fact, helpful. If it was, then find more means to spread the information. If not, recoup and identify what the needs are via a survey or forums which can be conducted effectively through faculties and residences with the help of the Academic Subcouncil and Residence Subcouncil.</p>
<p>Gender-based Violence Prevention Workshop: #AreWeSafe Yet?</p>	<p>31 July 2018</p>	<p>I had communicated with POWA (Soweto) and Brothers for Life (Brooklyn) to host Prevention of Gender-based Violence workshops catered to students. The external guest speakers originally approached for the event were unavailable so the TEARS Foundation was invited alongside the UP Security Department. (The Brothers For Life Organisation has nonetheless committed to a long-term GBV prevention and treatment workshop program with the University - pending approval of the workshop plan from the Department of Social Development for the year 2019! It will entail emergency referral for victims and perpetrators as well as a collaboration with 24/7 response centres). Once again, the turn-out was poor and there was lack of proper execution of the project from a technical event management perspective. The engagements were, however, more fruitful than the first seminar. All the issues raised are to be taken to Institutional Forum and other relevant management structures. There was also more (appreciated) support in terms of SRC attendance and contribution to the project</p>	<p>Successful</p>	<p>Follow up on the implementation of the Brothers For Life Collaboration.</p>

Women of Worth	11 August 2018	The event was a success. All free tickets were sold out, the guests were impressed with the calibre of speakers. Some raised the issue of 'insourcing' in that the MC duty including during the panel discussion should be given to a UP student and the guests should all be given a chance to speak as guests. It provided good opportunity for networking.		From a planning perspective, determine authority, role splitting, sharing of duties and financial resources, formally confirm the venue booking (from the Events Committee in writing)
SADAG Mental Health Training	September/October	The organisation conducts training for people over the age of 21 to equip them with the necessary skills to help fellow students dealing with mental health crises. I have requested that they avail their services to the university and they shall confirm a date for training.		
SRC Mental Health Awareness Video	September	In collaboration with Mone and Kyle, we created a video to help students with key mental health helplines, in the wake of the rising student suicide rates. Whilst it may have reached some, it alone is ineffective in sustainably combatting suicide therefore SADAG has been contacted for further assistance.		
Safe Spaces	October	This will be launched in the final quarter as students find themselves in the most need during this quarter. There will be training provided by SADAG on mental health – suicide prevention and combatting depression and anxiety as well as a Sexuality Orientation, Gender Identities and Expressions by the CSA&G. The incoming SRC will receive their training in March, however, they will also receive a short training beforehand to be ready for helpdesk.		

	October	Provisional date for a check in on Onderstepoort campus alongside 2017/18 External Campuses and Day Houses representative: Stanford Ndlovu – 18 October 2018. This will (hopefully) be attended by the Transformation Subcouncil as well.		
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I, Lihle Ngubane, in my capacity as the SRC Transformation and Student Success officer, hereby confirm the contents of this report as a true reflection of the actions/activities that were completed during my SRC Term of Office for the 2018 Academic Year.

Lihle Ngubane

Date: October 2018

SRC Transformation and Student Success