

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

YEARLY REPORT
Drafted by: Mr Akhona Mdunge
In his/her capacity as: Study Finance student administrator



Name: Akhona Mdunge		Portfolio: Study Finances		Time Frame: September 2017 – December 2018
Project:	Timeframe	Action/Activities	Outcome/Achieved Results	Recommendations/Implications for Policy/Practice)
Tuition Funding	January – September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The office of study finances assisted students with registering for the first and second semester through making allocations towards their accounts as predetermined by finance officials at the Administration Building. Further contributions were made to assist students receiving their NSFAS allocations where historical debts were preventing the disbursements of these funds. Lastly, contributions were made where students needed assistance mitigating large tuition debts where their sources of funding would not be able to completely cover the debt owed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to data received, the portfolio has assisted approximately 511 through the stated activity to date. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I recommend that a selection panel that will analyse a predetermined criterion for an applicant to receive funding be established. The portfolio's funds were misused by many students that heard that 'the SRC is giving away R10000.00'. The lack of a formal criterion prevented an adequate selection process.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This unfortunately took funds away from students that were factually in need of funding assistance. • Fundraising is also important to increase the quantity and amount allocated to students that do apply with large historical debts.
Rental Funding	August – September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the first semester of 2018, the office of study finances was able to prevent the eviction of students staying in private accommodation and awaiting NSFAS or other funding pools to process their applications. • Unfortunately, the accommodations took a harder stance in the second semester. • The office of study finances is currently urgently attempting to process funds towards these accommodations to prevent the further eviction of students residing in them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to data received, the portfolio stands to assist approximately 8 students through the stated activity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will liaise with the incoming member for study finances to establish partnerships with private accommodations, with the assistance of the Department of Student Affairs, to ensure that places in private accommodations can be prioritised for students who may face financial hindrances to paying the debts incurred. • Fundraising is also important to increase the number of students that receive assistance.
Food Funding	June – September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In light of the University not authorising top-ups for dining hall allowances, the office of study finances attempted to mitigate the situation by funding students who had completely run out of funds to purchase at dining halls. • This provision was extended to students staying in private accommodation and currently waiting for NSFAS to process their applications. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to data analysed, the portfolio assisted approximately 8 students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is not viable for the portfolio to attempt to implement this activity on a larger scale, especially with the existence of the SNAP program.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This process was ceased due to the need to complete payments towards an outstanding recon. 	through the stated activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Of course, consideration can be had to the amount that the incoming SRC is able to fundraise as compared to their expenses. A more viable solution is the forming of business partnerships that will provide dining halls with food at a reduced price, to ensure that the amount allocated for students to use at dining halls lasts longer than it currently does.
Book Funding	July – September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The office of study finances funded the purchase of books that were not available in the old study finances office or the SRC section of the Merensky Library. The funding only occurred in the second semester after the office was informed that it was clear from all debts incurred during the January registration period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I estimate that no more than 8 students were assisted by the stated activity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I recommend that the incoming member gets a clear understanding of their budget and makes the requisite financial budgeting for this activity. This will ensure that the portfolio can assist with the purchasing of first and second semester books that the portfolio does not have in stock. To assist in mitigating this expense, the office should prioritise the book drive recommendation as stated below.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate fundraising will also assist the portfolio to extend this assistance to more students. • E-books, as have been introduced by the EMS faculty, must be a priority for the portfolio to fund as many students cannot afford them and subsequently cannot do the tests and assignments that they come with.
Fundraising	January – September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The office of study finances has only partaken in fundraising to the extent of obtaining the names of companies that the SRC would be able to approach to raise funds. • The gala dinners aimed at fundraising were not implemented due to time constraints. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No income was generated through this P.O.A activity for the portfolio. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The office should prioritise the adequate execution of the responsibilities as stated above and below. • Fundraising activities should be the prerogative of the Treasurer, his team, and the SRC Executive.
Book Drive	April – September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The office of study finances received a large donation of books for the EMS Faculty. • The office is looking to have the books moved to a storage in the EMS Faculty so that students from the faculty in need of the books are easily able to obtain the books. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The exact number of books received were not counted. I estimate that they may be anything between 40 – 60. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the consistent state of activity within the portfolio, I recommend that the incoming member delegates this activity to the incoming member for Facilities, Safety and Security. • The latter member would then form a working relationship with faculty houses and co-ordinate two large book drives in a year

				(for semester one, two and year modules).
Senate Review Committee	February – March 2018 & July 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I sat on the Senate Review Committee where I aimed to mitigate against the academic exclusion of students, especially where financial considerations largely impacted on the student's performance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The success rate on Senate Review is disappointingly low. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Out-going faculty house members must better equip the incoming faculty houses as to how best to assist students facing academic exclusion, especially in respect to submitting supporting documentation. This is to ensure that the minimum number of student applications are received at Senate level. The members that sit on this Committee must especially put the academic appeal body of the Ebit faculty under scrutiny and offer any assistance necessary as this is faculty has a disappointingly large number of exclusions.

I, Akhona Mdunge, in my capacity as the SRC Study Finances student administrator hereby confirm the contents of this report as a true reflection of the action(s)/activities(s) that were completed during my SRC Term of Office for the 2018 Academic Year.

Signed by Mr Akhona Mdunge.

24/09/2018

Akhona Mdunge

Date

SRC Study Finances 2018