

University of Pretoria

Student Representative Council 2017/18

YEARLY REPORT

Drafted by: Moné Erasmus
In her capacity as: Student Culture Representative



| Name: Moné Erasmus | | Portfolio: Student Culture | | Time Frame: September 2017 – December 2018 |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| General SRC Duties Performed | | | | |
| Project: | Timeframe | Action/Activities | Outcome/Achieved Results | Recommendations/Implications for Policy/Practice) |
| Improve the inclusivity of Student Culture Events | September 2017 – December 2018 | <p>Place more focus on marketing for day students by creating a stronger on campus presence and involving Faculty houses and Societies. Keep social media pages updated. Place more emphasis on Expression and Nothing But Vernac, grow and further develop the event.</p> <p>Open more events up to Faculty houses and societies, starting with UP A Capella.</p> | <p>The activations held on the various campuses have been successful and helped inform more day students of Student Culture events. Day student participation have greatly improved in Expression and Nothing But Vernac.</p> <p>Faculty houses and societies signed up to participate in UP A Capella. NatHouse participated and placed in the mixed category.</p> | <p>Involve faculty houses and societies in marketing campaigns.</p> <p>Host more activations and continue to work on reaching more day students.</p> <p>If the SRC does get a platform on ClickUP, use it as another marketing space.</p> <p>Open up Step It UP to Faculty Houses and Societies and offer training to ensure these structures know how to go about participating in the event.</p> <p>Grow and improve Expression and Nothing But Vernac, UP Arts, and Debate.</p> |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Improve the understanding and quality of the execution of multiculturalism, more claim to be laid on South African cultures.</p> | <p>September 2017 – December 2018</p> | <p>Every Sub-Council Meeting had a section dedicated to explaining how cultures can and should be represented in specific portfolio, aim on educating the participants.</p> <p>More attention (higher percentage weight) dedicated to proper cultural presentation, celebration and education in events.</p> <p>A Transformation Workshop was hosted in January to explain Culture presentation and the difference between Culture Appropriation and Culture Appreciation, to help educate the residences and day houses on this subject, and in how to properly incorporate and represent cultures in their events and projects.</p> | <p>In 1nSync, Step It UP, and A Capella, the performances' quality in terms of multiculturalism improved compared to previous years.</p> <p>Internal Culture Events have shown greater effort put into culture presentation than in the past.</p> <p>In 1nSync, Step It UP, and A Capella, the performances that better incorporated several cultures, especially South African elements, achieved higher marks and were overall higher quality performances.</p> <p>So far there have not been a case of cultural appropriation at any Cultural event or performance, only accurate cultural presentation.</p> | <p>Continuously put in effort to not only educate the residences and day houses, but also the greater student population about different cultures, especially South African Cultures.</p> |
| <p>Events with substance</p> | <p>September 2017 – December 2018</p> | <p>Greater collaboration with RAG, and incorporation of community enhancing efforts in internal cultural events. Thus giving them greater meaning and creating depth within the residences as well.</p> | <p>Every Internal House Culture event that has anything to do with Student Culture has a clear purpose.</p> <p>Fund raising is now key at social events, to assist students in need who stay the residences or that form part of the day houses.</p> <p>Conservation efforts is now key at Showcase events, assist the residences and day houses in their "green" efforts.</p> | <p>Cooperate with RAG with other Student Culture events: entrance fees to events could be RAG donations, RAG could sell food and drinks at events to raise funds, etc.</p> <p>Turn to recycled materials where possible.</p> <p>Support local: buy trophies from street vendors, etc.</p> |

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Training | September 2017 – December 2018 | Attend all training and camps | I attended all training workshops as well as both Matlapeng camps. It improved my understanding of the SRC and my role in the SRC as well as my relationships with my colleagues. | Incorporate counselling training from the start. The Helpdesk training programme needs improvement. |
| UP Management Liaising | September 2017- December 2018 | Liaise with UP management on student issues. | I met with UP management to discuss current issues and solutions. I have a better understanding of how the university works and management's vision for the university. | The agendas of these meetings need to be sent out in advance and the members of the SRC need to be able to add to the agenda. The SRC does not have enough opportunities to voice students' concerns to management. |
| Regular SRC and office duties and meetings | September 2017- December 2018 | Fulfil my regular duties as a member of the SRC. | I completed normal SRC duties. Including office hours, meetings, assisting at Help Desk, other administrative duties, I completed and handed in all my quarterly reports on time, gave thorough feedback on all Student Culture events and served as the information link between my constituencies and the SRC to the best of my abilities | Counselling need to be offered to SRC members after Helpdesk and throughout the year. |

| Student Culture Events Feedback | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Project: | Timeframe | Action/Activities | Outcome/Achieved Results | Recommendations/Implications for Policy/Practice) |
| 1nSync | September 2017- February 2018 | <p>1nSync is the first years' concert that takes place at the end of Orientation Week.</p> <p>Suggest changes to the event to help improve from last year</p> <p>Act as advisor and mentor to the External Culture EC for Student Culture 2017/2018</p> <p>Assist in planning and meetings</p> <p>Meet with Security and Management to have the event take place on campus once again</p> <p>Ensure the event stays in line with the SRC's vision</p> <p>Monitor rehearsals and screen performances to ensure it remains appropriate.</p> <p>Assist and oversee the execution of the events</p> | <p>The event was a great success, and served as a great activity for the first years to familiarise themselves with one another and with the university.</p> <p>The standard of the winning performances were higher than ever seen before.</p> <p>The 2017/2018 EC in charge of 1nSync improved the event and built on my successes.</p> <p>Nothing was forgotten or left out in the planning process.</p> <p>Security and Management agreed to host the event on campus and it was much more accessible than last year, it also worked out more affordable.</p> <p>The event and performances stayed in line with the SRC's vision.</p> <p>The performances were of a much higher quality and we received no complaints afterwards as to the content of the performances.</p> <p>The event was a success and ran with no issues, despite the rain.</p> | <p>Investigate more ways to open the event up to Faculty Houses. Our aim to be more inclusive of all students.</p> |

| | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Expression | September 2017-March 2018 | <p>Expression took place on 22 March in the Piazza.</p> <p>It is an art exhibition event for visual arts, photography pieces, and poems.</p> <p>It serves to create a platform for students to express who they are and celebrate their identity and uniqueness, as well as similarities we share as Africans, through visual art mediums.</p> | <p>The event was a great success. There were several beautiful stalls displaying a lot of art pieces and poems.</p> <p>Majority of the art, photos and poems perfectly encapsulated the theme of the event: <i>What Are We If Not African?</i></p> <p>Several audience members also dressed in clothes from the different cultures of South Africa to express their personal cultural identities.</p> <p>Overall the event was a great celebration of the personal and cultural identities of the students on campus.</p> | <p>The event could use a better layout for the exhibitions, let the exhibitions start earlier so more students can see the pieces.</p> <p>Focus more on the dress code in the marketing to encourage the students even more to wear traditional clothing from their own cultures.</p> |
| Nothing But Vernac | September 2017-March 2018 | <p>Nothing But Vernac took place with Expression on 22 March in the Piazza.</p> <p>It is a language and culture celebration.</p> <p>Participants perform verbal pieces in their home language and vernacular, the performances can range from singing, to storytelling, to poetry reading, and stand-up comedy.</p> <p>The participants and audience are also encouraged to dress in the traditional clothing of their own culture, as this is a celebration on personal identity and one's own language and culture.</p> | <p>Nothing But Vernac 2018 greatly built on the efforts of 2017. It was a much greater success.</p> <p>The Piazza was the perfect venue as it made it possible for more students to watch the performances.</p> <p>There was a huge variety of performances: from poems and songs performed in several languages to dances from different cultures.</p> <p>The audience was very supportive of every performance. This was the greatest part of the event, how many students came to watch, and how well they participated and supported the performers.</p> | <p>Have the event at the Piazza again, the venue was perfect.</p> <p>Start it a little earlier.</p> <p>Make provisions in case it rains (just to be safe)</p> |

| | | | | |
|--------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Debate | September 2017-April 2018 | <p>Debate took place from 23-26 April 2018 in the HSB.</p> <p>Residences, day houses, faculty houses, societies, and day students all participated by entering teams consisting of four participants. Notions, put forward by the students, were debated over the four days.</p> <p>This served as to literally start conversations on controversial and applicable topics. It created a platform for students with a lot on their minds to share their views and opinions, and also for all students to learn, challenge their own beliefs and ideas, and inform others.</p> <p>The Debate Union will be our main source of assistance.</p> | <p>Around 29 teams competed in this year's debating tournament.</p> <p>This was the first year it was open to faculty houses: Law House, House Humanities, and House Education took part, addition to the residences and societies.</p> <p>It was a brilliant tournament with exceptional speakers, it raised the standard to a new height.</p> <p>The topics discussed were relevant and controversial, making for interesting thought exercises and engaging debates that shaped and influenced the listeners' thoughts and views.</p> <p>Overall this event was a great success.</p> | <p>This event is a really important one, maybe host two throughout the year.</p> <p>Hold it over weekends so it doesn't clash with semester tests.</p> <p>Consider live streaming the debates.</p> |
|--------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

| | | | | |
|------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Step It UP | February 2018-May 2018 | <p>With a lot of help from the rest of the SRC, residences, day houses, and the entire Student Culture Committee, Student Culture developed a new event, Step It UP. The event is scheduled to take place 2,3 and 5 May. It is a song and dance competition that consists of at least 20 participants. The groups also create their own music (recommended with a band) and sing a mash-up of songs.</p> <p>The event will have two prelims evening that will take place on campus in four venues, and a finals evening that will take place on the 5th in the Amphi. Tickets sold online.</p> <p>We are trying out this new event, hoping to create a platform for all students who enjoy singing and dancing to express themselves.</p> | <p>Step It UP 2018 was a huge success. Prelims took place on 2 and 3 May on campus. We used 4 venues: The Musaion, The Masker, The Bok, and The Lier theatre, all are performance venues. Despite our thorough security, there was an incident the one evening where guests snuck into the roof of the Musaion and one broke through the roof. They unfortunately got away. This was a failure on the university's security services' side, as they were negligent in this regard.</p> <p>Finals took place on the 5th of May, it was a fantastic evening and we received only good feedback.</p> <p>The overall quality of this year's performances was really high, and the multiculturalism increased since 1nSync.</p> | <p>Have more venues at Prelims, such as the Klooster, we could not accommodate everyone who wanted to watch the prelims evenings.</p> <p>Open the event up to Faculty Houses and Societies and assist them in participating.</p> |
| UP Arts | March 2018-September 2018 | <p>UP Arts exists as a platform for all students to showcase their talents.</p> <p>With subsections such as <i>So You Think You Can Dance</i>, <i>UP Idols</i>, and <i>Poetry Slam</i>. Any talent that doesn't fall under these categories, can be showcased at <i>UP's Got Talent</i>.</p> <p>UP Arts focus on individual and small group talents, it is a competition that brings out the best in artistic talent the University has to offer.</p> | <p>Due to our term ending before UP Arts was scheduled to take place. We could not have UP Arts in our term. We will, however, advise and assist our successors to have UP Arts before the end of the year, to ensure that the event still takes place in 2018.</p> | <p>Host UP Arts as the first event the committee does together, in this year still. This will be good practice for the newly elected EC to host an event together before 1nSync 2019.</p> |

| | | | | |
|--------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| UP A Capella | February 2018- August 2018 | <p>UP A Capella took place from 6-9 August 2018. It is a serenade competition for groups of 20 people.</p> <p>This serves as a competition between the residences and day houses, between the faculty houses, and there is also a category for day students.</p> <p>In 2017 Student Culture withdrew from ATKV, and this year we intend to transform the event further in the name of inclusivity.</p> | <p>UP A Capella was a great success. We have had a Faculty house participate for the first time. NatHouse placed third in the mixed category. This shows that faculty houses are not only interested in the event, but also have great potential.</p> <p>Other faculty houses also tried to participate but due to unforeseen circumstances, had to withdraw.</p> <p>There were also societies that were interested in participating but did not manage to. One society made it to Sound Check, but their performance did not meet our standard for transformation, so we could not allow them to participate. This does, however, show that societies are interested and can possible participate</p> | Place more emphasis on Faculty House and Society participation. Assist them during the year to try ensure that they can participate. |
|--------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

I, Moné Erasmus, in my capacity as the SRC Student Culture Representative, 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.



Moné Erasmus
SRC Student Culture 2018

Date