



FIRST SEMESTER REPORT
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL:
RHODES UNIVERSITY
Representing Leaders

Vision

We strive to strategically influence and represent our diverse institution by fostering a student-centric environment that at its epicentre encourages academic excellence, internationalization, eco-consciousness, and the empowerment of students into servant leaders through a transformative and intersectional.

Mission

a. Academic Excellence

-Remaining in constant communication with our substructures in ways that allow us to monitor academic performance in the different departments.

b. Internationalisation

-Fostering healthy relationships among the different stakeholders both within and outside the university and encouraging globalisation for the benefit of all.

c. Eco-Consciousness

-Keeping abreast with ecological conversations.
- Ensuring newly created and existing programmes continue by educating and therefore increasing student participation.

d. Empowerment of Students

-Engaging in transformative conversation and creating an inclusive environment that promotes the holistic development of students.
-Encouraging students to continuously adapt to the new normal by embracing the digital world.

Rhodes University IDP Strategic Objectives

GOAL 1: Maintain and strengthen our general formative degree offering and the research-teaching- community engagement nexus which enable our students to access powerful knowledge.

GOAL 2: Enable access to Rhodes University by all academically qualifying students and provide them with conditions which enable all students to flourish, and which promote their holistic development as critical citizens.

GOAL 3: Maintain and strengthen our unique institutional niche as a research-intensive university outside a major urban area.

GOAL 4: Ensure financial and environmental sustainability practices at Rhodes University through good governance, leadership, and management.

GOAL 5: Attract, nurture, and retain staff of high calibre and maintain an inclusive, welcoming, affirming, and positive institutional environment.

GOAL 6: To provide the relevant/appropriate academic infrastructure, equipment, and facilities to support our academic project.

GOAL 7: To Promote Rhodes University as an institution for public good in the local, provincial, national, and international contexts.

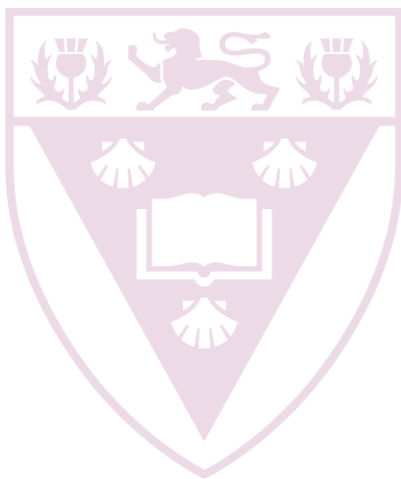
Division of Student Affairs Strategic Objectives

Goal 1: Strengthen ability to provide quality counselling and academic advising to students.

Goal 2: Promote a sexually responsible citizenry and safe community within Rhodes University.

Goal 3: Provide enriched student experiences for all students at Rhodes University.

RHODES UNIVERSITY



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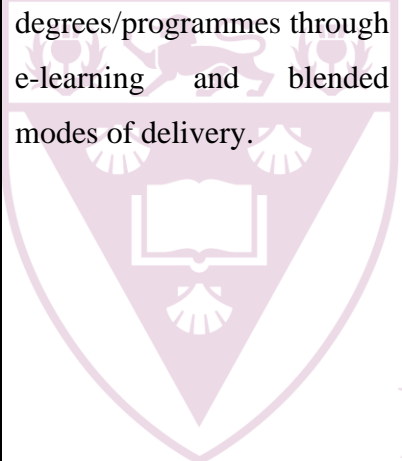
Reference: DSA STRATEGIC PLAN 2019 – 2021

2021

Representing Leaders

GOAL 1: Maintain and strengthen our general formative degree offering and the research-teaching-community engagement nexus which enables our students to access powerful knowledge

OBJECTIVE	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	REPORT
<p>1.3 Provide Opportunities for students to participate in theorised initiatives falling along the spectrum of Community Engagement.</p> 	<p>Number of service-learning options/programmes available to students.</p>	<p>During O-Week the Residence Councillor and the Community Engagement Councillor distributed Door-hangers with all content relating to the different programmes available for Community engagement within the University.</p> <p>Sanitary Towels Initiative: During a community Shutdown Protest in May, it led to closure of shops. There were collaborations with the Residence Councillor, the Student Benefits and Sponsorship Councillor, the SRC Hall Representatives together with House Head Students.</p> <p>This initiative was conducted for both Residence and Oppidan</p>

		<p>students and donations came from the entire student body.</p> <p>The President was invited by RUCCE to speak at an event attended by community engagement representatives and community partners. At this event, she highlighted the role of the Community Engagement representatives in student governance</p>
<p>1.5 Provide wider reach of our general formative degrees/programmes through e-learning and blended modes of delivery.</p> 	<p>On-going progress report on development of e-learning at faculties.</p>	<p>The Academic Councillor managed to ensure that the academic representatives submit termly reports at the end of every term to hold them accountable. This was to ensure they are putting in the work to provide and create academic support structures to students and ensure they are able to cope and navigate their way through online learning. This has been very effective, as they are able to outline both the strengths and challenges, they face when attempting to establish projects.</p> <p>The Academic Councillor ensured that the student body</p>

		<p>is aware of their faculty representatives by use of social media platforms. This will ensure that students are aware of who their faculty representatives are.</p> <p>The Academic Councillor created study tip templates that students could adopt for online learning. These tips were shared via email and students who had queries in this regard, were assisted. It is hoped that this initiative will continue in semester 2.</p>
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GOAL 2: Enable access to Rhodes University by all academically qualifying students and provide them with conditions which enable all students to flourish, and which promote their holistic development as critical citizens.

OBJECTIVE	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	REPORT
2.1 Promote diversified student body	Student demographic diversity index	BuddingQ Videos: The Community Engagement Councillor assisted the BuddingQ Programme Coordinator Anna Talbot with the recording of exercise videos for the young ones to do at home. He was also the isiXhosa

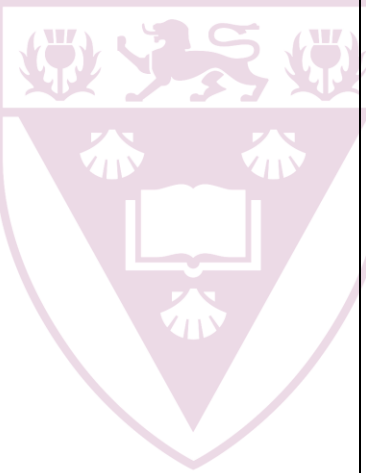
		narrator for the exercise videos which is indicative of the institution's commitment to eradicating language barriers in community engagement.
2.2 Strengthen ability to provide quality counselling and academic advice to students.	Percentage of students seeking academic advice.	<p>The Oppidan Councillor in collaboration with the Oppidan Committee and Division of Student Affairs launched a mentorship programme. The number of mentors surpassed the number of mentees. The Academic Representative of the Oppidan Committee is monitoring the success of the initiative.</p> <p>The Postgraduate Affairs Councillor dealt with academic queries which affected Postgraduate Students. The Academic Councillor also dealt with academic queries.</p>
	Participation level of students in SRC interventions.	The SRC through the Academic Councillor hosted the Hall academic talks. The agenda of the talks included study tips

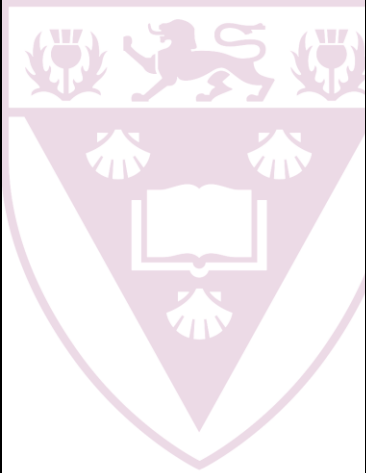
	<p>Percentage of students seeking counselling advice.</p>	<p>and habits to adopt before and during examinations.</p> <p>The SRC Sports and Societies Councillor organised a meeting with the newly approved Wellbeing Association Society with the Counselling Centre in an attempt to create a relationship between the two parties as they work towards the same goal of ensuring the wellbeing of Rhodes University Students.</p> <p>The SRC Student Benefits and Sponsorship Councillor attended the Wellness Committee where the committee re-evaluated its purpose in the University, discussed the wellness projects that were implemented by different sub structures of the Division of Student Affairs such as the Health care Center and Counselling Center. The Committee</p>
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		<p>saw a need for the Committee to continue to function as Student and Staff Wellness issues need to be addressed and projects can be implemented to try curb the increase in Wellness matters for both Students and Staff.</p>
<p>2.3 Promote a sexually responsible citizenry and safe community within Rhodes University.</p>	<p>Number of Programmes/Interventions/events promoting sexually responsible citizenship.</p>	<p>The SRC created awareness on the First Things First Campaign.</p> <p>Various council members were asked to participate by taking videos and encouraging students to test. These videos were posted on our social media platforms.</p> <p>The Activism and Transformation Councillor collected condoms from the healthcare centre and distributed to residences that had run out of condoms.</p>
<p>2.4 Increase access to RU for learners from local schools by providing academic support</p>	<p>Number of students at Rhodes University from local schools.</p>	<p>SRC Makufundwe Initiative: The drive was aimed at assisting prospective Rhodes University students with</p>

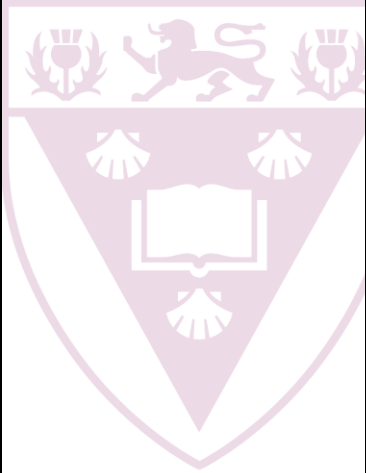
programmes in local schools.

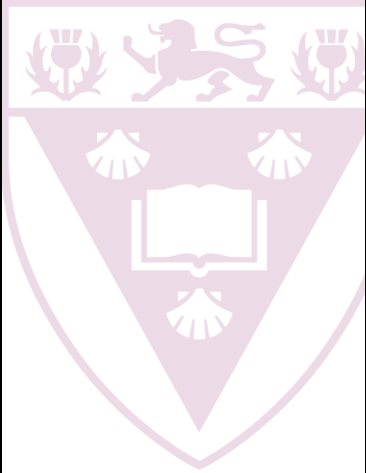
their applications which was spearheaded by the SRC Community Engagement Councillor and the SRC Academic Councillor. The name Makufundwe means “let us learn” which speaks to promoting access to higher education for the Makhanda community. We assisted with queries and helped applicants with regards to submitting the applications in full and successfully on ROSS. We established a WhatsApp group for the drive where a few council members assisted with answering queries and assisting applicants. We also answered queries via email and on our respective Facebook accounts. We assisted more than 50 applicants with queries and ensured that the applications were submitted successfully. We had an evaluation after the closure of the drive and many applicants wrote

		back to thank us for the support and the swiftness of our responses. We ran the drive for two weeks.
2.5 Provide enriched student experiences for all students of Rhodes University	The number of students enrolled on the SRC RUConnected Page.	The SRC President established an RUConnected Page at the beginning of the year to keep students abreast of all student related matters. To this date, 1913 students have enrolled on the page.
	The Involvement of the SRC in the key stakeholder engagement.	The SRC dealt with financial appeals in the beginning of the year. The SRC President also sits in the Plagiarism Committee, the Reviewal Committee and Honorary Degrees Committee.
	Students' Perceptions of overall student experiences (1-10).	The SRC Student Benefits and Sponsorship Councillor looked for sponsorships for the Rhodes University Orientation Week. We were able to acquire green bags, vouchers from different restaurants in

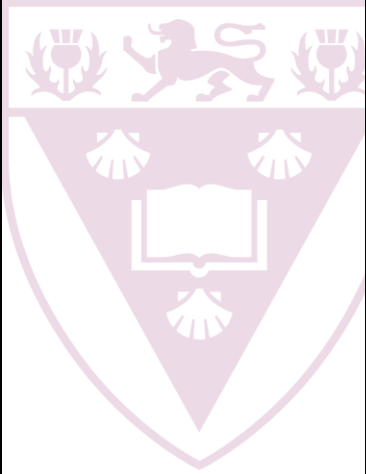
		<p>Makhanda, key rings and wristbands from the Alumni House.</p> <p>During O-week, together with the Red Bull Student Brand manager, the Residence Councillor was able to successfully do on the spot questionnaires to residence first year students they saw on the streets and distributed Red Bull to them. Social distancing and covid-19 protocols were followed as they ensured there was sanitizers as well.</p> <p>In collaboration with the Student Benefits and Sponsorship Councillor and assistance from a few SRC members, the Residence Councillor and the team were able to distribute sponsored items such as keyrings, pens and wristbands after a question-and-answer session with individual first years who were on their way to the Dining Hall. Covid</p>
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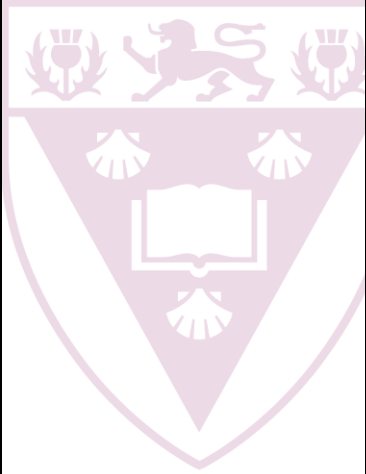
		<p>protocols were also followed in this regard.</p> <p>The SRC conducted Dining Hall visits during Orientation week. These visits were aimed at increasing SRC visibility, as well as serve as a platform to hear from students their concerns and queries.</p> <p>The Postgraduate Affairs Councillor created a Facebook group and page called ‘Rhodes Postgraduate Affairs 2021’ to create a space for postgraduate students to engage. This page addresses pertinent postgraduate issues including funding.</p> <p>To increase communication efficiency, a WhatsApp group was created which comprises of the Postgraduate Affairs Councillor and the</p>
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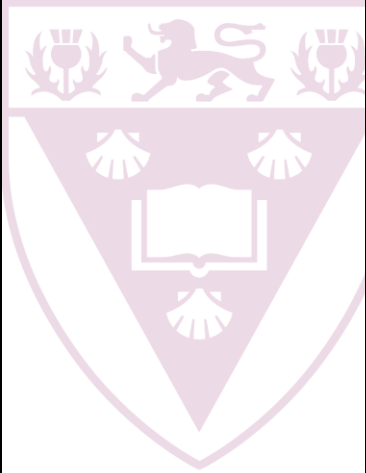
		<p>Postgraduate faculty and class reps.</p> <p>Door Hangers: The Community Engagement Councillor requested RUCE to make 2300 door hangers with all the RUCE Volunteerism programmes and contact details for first year undergraduate and postgraduate students. RUCE was able to provide door hangers for residence and oppidan first year undergraduate and postgraduate students.</p> <p>The SRC Sports and Societies Councillor facilitated the recently approved BGM document process of electing committee members for societies. The SRC Sports and Societies Councillor then set a deadline of the 5th of February 2021 for those societies who have already completed with the elections. He thereof offered till the 15th of</p>
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		<p>February 2021 for those who have not completed the elections.</p> <p>The Vice-President, Secretary-General and Treasurer-General, as well as the Student Benefits and Sponsorships Councillor had a meeting with the former Nelson Mandela University President and SANLAM representatives to discuss a SANLAM plan called Sanlam Student Shield and Primary Health Care. The meeting discussed how these packages would benefit Rhodes University students. It was decided that the proposition would be handed to the Director of Student Affairs.</p> <p>The Oppidan Councillor, The Oppidan Committee and the Division of Student Affairs facilitated the process to have the Oppidan bus running. The bus is currently operational</p>
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	<p>Number of recreational and sporting events organised by the University.</p>	<p>with full adherence to COVID-19 protocols.</p> <p>The SRC Sports and Societies Councillor, recommended societies to the SRC for approval and decline. In the meeting held with the SRC, the resolution was to approve three societies and decline three societies. The three application which were regarded as successful was the Deeper Life Campus Fellowship Society, The Wellbeing Society, The Kitchen Society. The societies which were deemed unsuccessful was the Pro Math Alumni Society, The Rhodes Business School Society, and the Young Single Society</p> <p>The SRC Sports and Societies Councillor organized the Sports and Societies Extravaganza scheduled to take place on</p>
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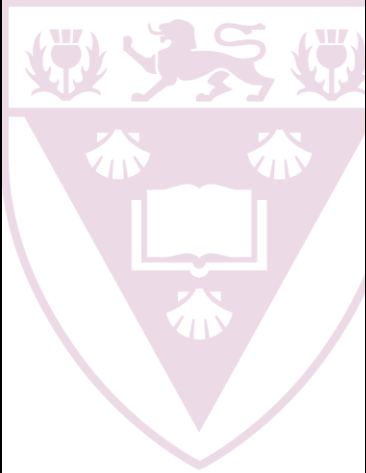
	<p>the 12th of March 2021. Unfortunately, it was postponed due to the peaceful strike that the SRC held. The SRC Sports and Societies Councillor then held the event on the 9th of April on the 2021 SRC Page on RUConnected where the a of sports and societies provided by Rhodes University were showcased. The videos remained on the page for four weeks and were only brought down on the 12th of May 2021.</p> <p>The SRC Sports and Societies Councillor, with the assistance of the SRC Student Development and Support Officer organized training for the societies Chairpersons. The invite was also extended to the task teams established by societies. The event took place from the 7th of April to the 9th of April on zoom.</p>	<p>the 12th of March 2021. Unfortunately, it was postponed due to the peaceful strike that the SRC held. The SRC Sports and Societies Councillor then held the event on the 9th of April on the 2021 SRC Page on RUConnected where the a of sports and societies provided by Rhodes University were showcased. The videos remained on the page for four weeks and were only brought down on the 12th of May 2021.</p> <p>The SRC Sports and Societies Councillor, with the assistance of the SRC Student Development and Support Officer organized training for the societies Chairpersons. The invite was also extended to the task teams established by societies. The event took place from the 7th of April to the 9th of April on zoom.</p>
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		<p>RUCE established a website dedicated to the community engagement orientation programme for the first years. The SRC Community Engagement Councillor and RUCE drew up the programme for the week which included the Director's address and a community engagement extravaganza, as well as a variety of presentations.</p> <p>There was a significant number of signups for community engagement programmes.</p> <p>The Community Engagement Extravaganza was hosted between 21 April and 22 April on the RUCE Facebook page, where several pertinent issues such as the sustainable development goals were discussed. Prizes were given away to students and winners who participated in the programme.</p>
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	<p>The SRC Sports and Societies Councillor organized the societies sign ups which was facilitated the event on the 2021 SRC Page on RUConnected. The event took place on a three weeks period in which the SRC Sports and Societies Councillor launched the event on the 12th of May 2021 and will have the event ending on the 3rd of June 2021.</p> <p>In light of water scarcity in Grahamstown, the SRC organized a Hike for water in an attempt to inform substructures of the spring in Makhanda. This was so that they can be exemplary leadership and provide alternatives to students in times of water crises on campus.</p> <p>The Financial Sector Conduct Authority and the Student Benefits and Sponsorships councillor</p>	<p>The SRC Sports and Societies Councillor organized the societies sign ups which was facilitated the event on the 2021 SRC Page on RUConnected. The event took place on a three weeks period in which the SRC Sports and Societies Councillor launched the event on the 12th of May 2021 and will have the event ending on the 3rd of June 2021.</p> <p>In light of water scarcity in Grahamstown, the SRC organized a Hike for water in an attempt to inform substructures of the spring in Makhanda. This was so that they can be exemplary leadership and provide alternatives to students in times of water crises on campus.</p> <p>The Financial Sector Conduct Authority and the Student Benefits and Sponsorships councillor</p>
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		<p>resolved to have a partnership that would see webinars surrounding financial wellness. These webinars were unable to take place due to time constraints.</p>
<p>2.6 Improve the level of student funding to academically qualifying students.</p>	<p>Percentage increase in available student bursaries/funding.</p>	<p>The SRC staged a peaceful protest called #RUASENZINEX in response to the national shutdown called by SAUS. The shutdown aimed to address issues of defunding and the lack of funding for students who qualify for funding by NSFAS. The protest resulted in a positive response from the University and several students were successfully registered.</p> <p>The Postgraduate Affairs councillor liaised with the Postgraduate Funding office to allow more postgraduate students who did not get funding to apply for the Postgraduate Council Loan. Some PGCE student have been able to</p>

		<p>successfully apply for the Loan</p> <p>There has been increased sharing of funding opportunities available for the academic year through the Postgraduate Affairs Councillor closely working with the Postgraduate Funding Office.</p> <p>The Postgraduate Affairs Councillor and the President attended a meeting held by PGCE students who were seeking to know a way forward following being defunded by NSFAS.</p> <p>The Student Benefits and Sponsorships Councillor facilitated a partnership with FEENIX to attempt to mitigate funding issues faced by students. It is hoped that the programme will be take effect in semester 2.</p>
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		<p>The SRC President and Vice-President attended the NSFAS workshop in Johannesburg (20 May- 22 May) with all other SRC's of the 26 universities. This was in an attempt to collectively formulate mechanisms to resolve challenges.</p> <p>Challenges faced by students in institutions such as the portal conveying a different message compared to what appears on the institution's database, the crisis of LLB and PGCE; to which NSFAS responded and said they will be releasing communiqué soon as they were able to come up with a contingency plan.</p> <p>The sustainability of the financial aid scheme and how NSFAS can better improve its administration was discussed.</p>
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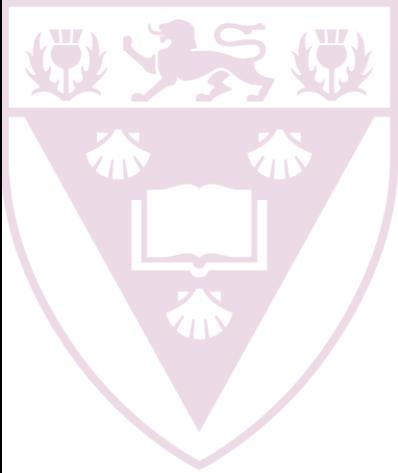
GOAL 3: Maintain and strengthen our institutional niche as a research-intensive university outside a major urban area

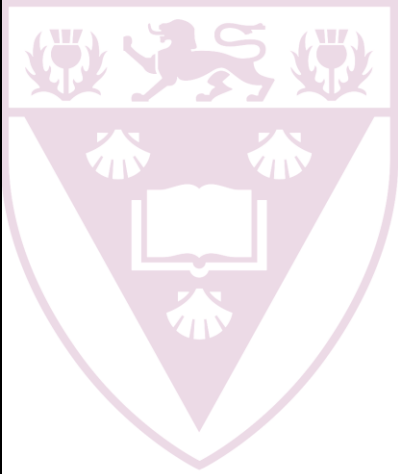
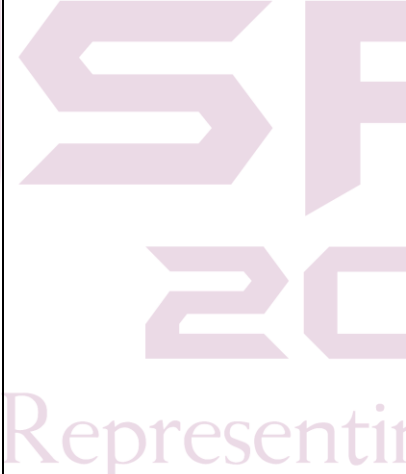
OBJECTIVE	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	REPORT
<p>3.1 Maintain the reputation of Rhodes University as a research-intensive University by the production of knowledge of high impact.</p>	<p>Total research output units (weighted)</p>	<p>Faculty board meetings were attended by the Postgraduate Affairs Councillor, Academic Councillor and Community Engagement Councillor to discuss how best to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the research abilities of students.</p> <p>The Postgraduate Affairs Councillor and the Centre for Postgraduate Studies (CPGS) shed light to postgraduate students on the importance of the CPGS and encouraged attendance of all seminars, in attempt to positively contribute to research studies and projects.</p> <p>The Postgraduate Affairs Councillor hosted the first-ever Postgraduate Forum on 21 May. Prospective Postgraduates were invited in an attempt to encourage them to register as postgraduates in 2022.</p> <p>Different stakeholders of the University such as the</p>

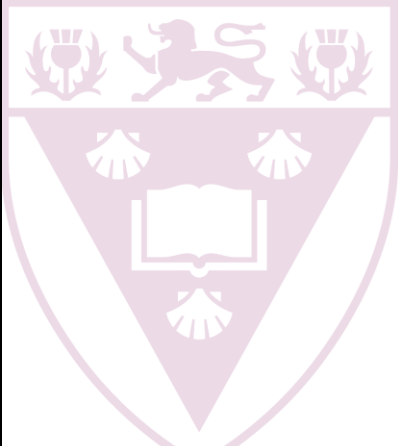

		Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Innovation, Dr Clayton and Mr John Gillam were in attendance.
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GOAL 4: Ensure financial and environmental sustainability practices at Rhodes University through good governance, leadership and management.

OBJECTIVE	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	REPORT
4.5 Enhance implementation of environmental sustainability policy and practices.	Electricity usage per enrolled student (kWh/student)	<p>The Environmental Councillor hosted an Environmental extravaganza that was centered around the human impact on the environment with a lens focus on the different ways students could reduce their carbon footprint with electricity usage awareness as one of the focus points. This extravaganza was done to foster for the development of knowledgeable graduates that have a heightened sense of their impact of the environment and the best way to be a sustainable citizen.</p> <p>The Environmental Councillor has put together a detailed proposal to present</p>

	<p>Water usage per enrolled student (K1/student)</p>	<p>to Board of Residences in Term 3. This proposal centers on the importance of timed lights in residences and all university buildings.</p>
	<p>Percentage reduction in volume of hard paper printing (% reduction w.r.t 2017).</p>	<p>During the ongoing shutdown protests water accessibility was at an all-time low. The Environmental Councillor ran a “one cup challenge” as a method to increase water consciousness within the university. While also releasing communication that addressed the water situation and the options that the student body had during the crisis.</p> <p>In February, the Environmental Councilor sat in a meeting with MPAG to briefly discuss the progress of the environmental programs that would be launched focusing on the different ways to reduce paper consumption within the institution.</p>

		<p>The Environmental Councilor joined the Climate action team that is preparing to launch the start of a recycling hub at Rhodes University. The recycling hub will realize the institutional mandate of transformation by making recycling a culture of the Stakeholders of Rhodes University to actively decrease the Universities Carbon footprint.</p>
		<p>The Environmental Councilor began an Eco-brick competition that was focused on ensuring that the student body would be aware of their plastic and paper consumption while also remaining cognizant of the different recycling and reusing methods that are accessible to them.</p> <p>The Environmental Councilor ran an Environmental Day celebration program that was aimed at celebrating environmental dates and</p>

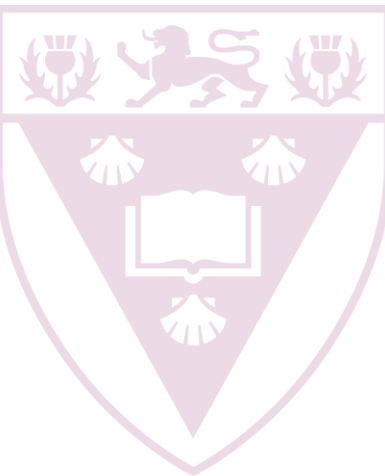
		<p>dedicating those days to environmental awareness.</p> <p>The environmental Councilor produced two Grocott's mail articles that were aimed at educating the student body of the different environmental projects they can find on campus. This was done to enhance the implementation of the environmental sustainability policy to make way for a precautionary approach to environmental challenges, that way the student body could undertake the policies overview of creating initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility.</p>
		

GOAL 5: Attract, nurture, and retain staff of high calibre and maintain an inclusive, welcoming, affirming, and positive institutional environment.

OBJECTIVE	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	REPORT
5.5 Drive transformation by identification of socially unjust systematic patterns and recommend/implement	Number of events/Projects targeted at promoting transformation.	The Activism and Transformation Councillor, the Vice President, the DSA and the Counselling Centre held a virtual disability

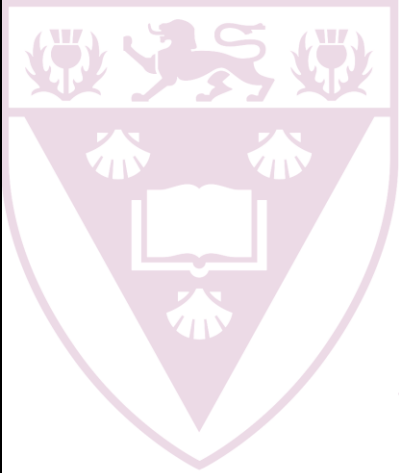
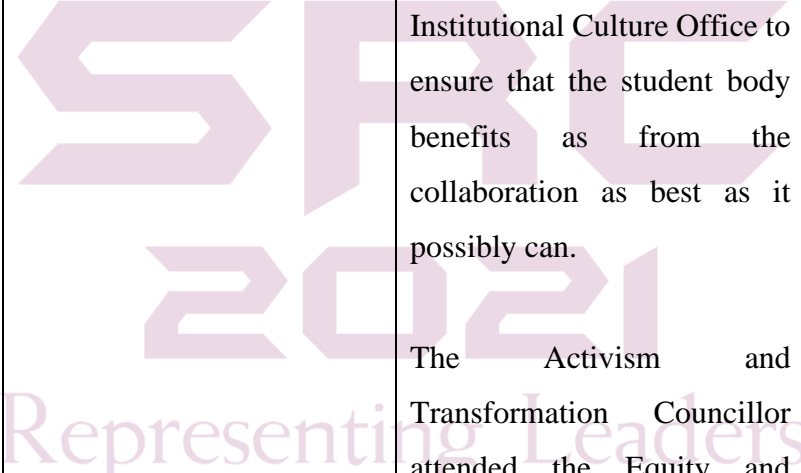
remediation through the transformation plan.

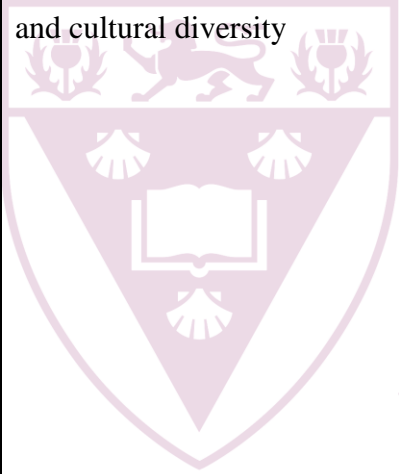
awareness event called “Diverseability”. The programme aimed to create awareness and conversations surrounding disability in the Rhodes context. Several guest speakers were invited to speak on different topics including the disability structures offered by the university.

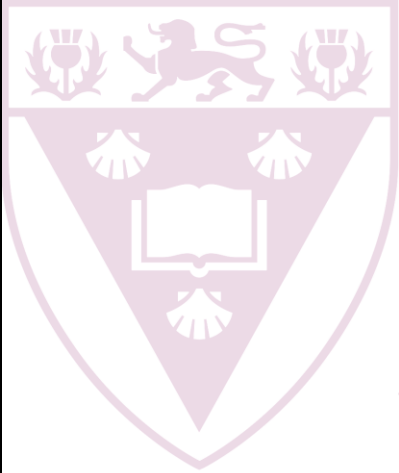



The Activism and Transformation Councillor was invited by The Wellbeing Association Society to give a talk on mental health. During this talk we discussed topics such as holistic wellbeing spaces and the importance of social awareness. This was an interactive talk hosted as an Instagram Live and was aimed at raising awareness on mental health issues around campus.

The Activism and Transformation councillor attended a meeting with the director of the Equity and

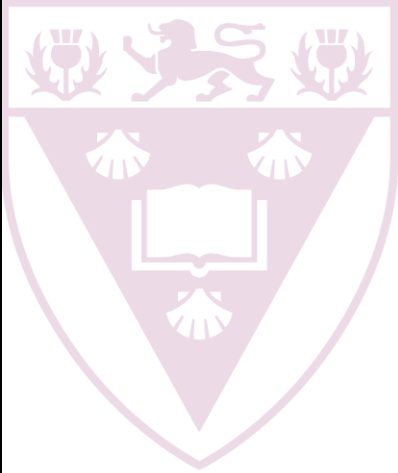
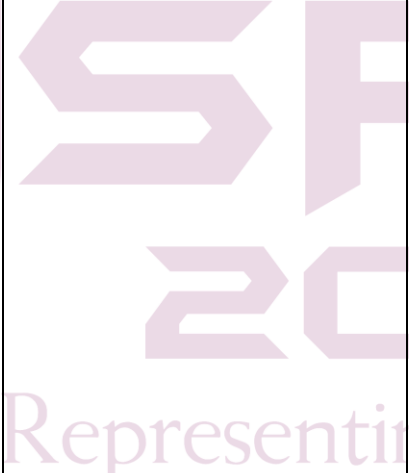
		<p>Institutional Culture Office to discuss the principles of social justice and a plan of action for the year. During this meeting she was able to highlight some of the challenges she has faced this year i.e. leading in a virtual space and they looked at the Activism and Transformation Councillor's year plans and discussed how they could incorporate them with the year plans of the Equity and</p>
		<p>Institutional Culture Office to ensure that the student body benefits as from the collaboration as best as it possibly can.</p> <p>The Activism and Transformation Councillor attended the Equity and Institutional Culture Committee meeting in which she gave a report on gender neutral residences and what that task team is currently working on, the SRC report and raised the issue of preferred names. The issue of preferred names is currently being worked on and is based</p>

		<p>on how departments ask for students' preferred names but never use them. This is meant to tackle traumas that might be attached to some names for some students. This was brought forward by the Chairperson of the Nkolie-Fassie Society and the SRC will be working collaboratively with them to ensure that this is addressed.</p>
<p>5.6 Promote Internationalisation at home and cultural diversity</p> 	<p>Number of events/projects promoting an understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity across all the University stakeholders</p>	<p>This was done through the hosting of International week by The International Office and The SRC.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The International Affairs Councillor chaired the International Students Forum on 24 May 2021. The International Office was invited to speak and this forum served as a platform to reinforce how best to promote internationalisation, as well as a means for students to raise concerns.

		<p>2. The Africa DayCookout series was recorded and premiered on YouTube to show cultural diversity through food. It was premiered a week later due to the service delivery protests.</p> <p>3. The Wave Your Flag Purple Thursday was hosted on 3 June to promote and showcase the Different nationalities represented at Rhodes University.</p>
		<p>4. Different regional societies and local societies were invited to participate in the International Students Forum to drive home the point that internationalization is to be achieved through collaborative efforts.</p>

GOAL 6: To provide the relevant/appropriate academic infrastructure equipment, and facilities to support our academic project.

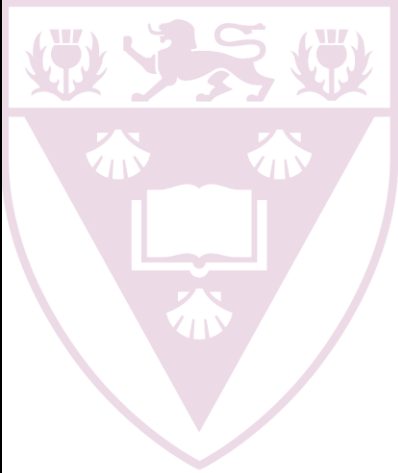
OBJECTIVE	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	REPORT
6.3 Provide world-class library services to staff, students and the community.	General use satisfaction (score) on library services.	Following an engagement with the Vice-chancellor during the Humanities Faculty Board meeting, the operating hours of the libraries were extended in Term 2.
6.5 Provide and maintain decent residential accommodation	Overall student satisfaction (score) on residential accommodation.	<p>The Residence Councillor had a meeting with the Deputy Head of Residential Operations together with the managers that work under the division as well as the Head of Food Services and their deputies. It was based on trying to get a general understanding of the entire system and activities that had taken place under residential operations.</p> <p>The Residence Councillor dealt with cases where NSFAS funded students could not be catered for by the food in Dining Halls and in this regard, arrangements were made, and the best solution was to enable them to self-cater for themselves off- campus.</p>

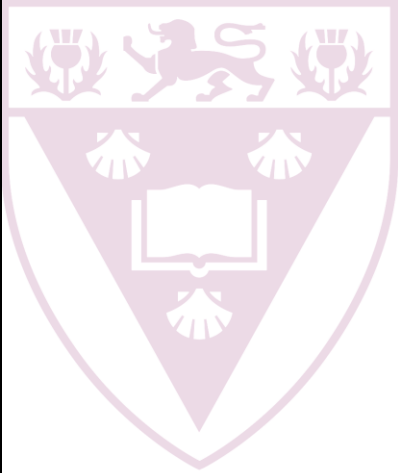
		<p>There had been queries with regards to operation of DSTV within residences. The matter was escalated to the Board of Residences. It was noted that operations would continue to be halted until 80-90% capacity as students are supposed to be in their rooms and people were limited to two people in common rooms.</p>
		<p>To ensure availability of utilities required for emergency purposes, the Residence Councillor enquired about emergency kits in the SSC meeting. The Residence Councillor also held meeting with the DSA manager, it was stated that House Leadership were to liaise with Hall Administrators to ensure that kits are supplied.</p>
<p>6.6 Provide advisory Oppidan/off-campus accommodation information to our students.</p>	<p>Oppidan/off-campus accommodation advisory list provided (YES=1/NO=0).</p>	<p>The Oppidan Councillor and the Oppidan Committee had to step in in instances where students had no accommodation due to unpaid rentals in the month of March. This was because</p>

		NSFAS had delayed the payout of living allowances.
6.7 Provide and maintain clean and safe campus environment.	Compliance level with occupational health and safety standards. Student satisfaction (score) on the campus aesthetics, cleanliness and safety.	The Activism and Transformation Councillor attended meetings with the Corona Virus Response Task Team to try and find ways to spread the curb of the spread of the Covid-19 virus in the university. The Residence Councillor started working with the Deputy Director of Residential Operations on a project aimed at enhancing hygiene and health awareness in residences. Currently there had been engagements with the manager of housekeeping services on the Project.

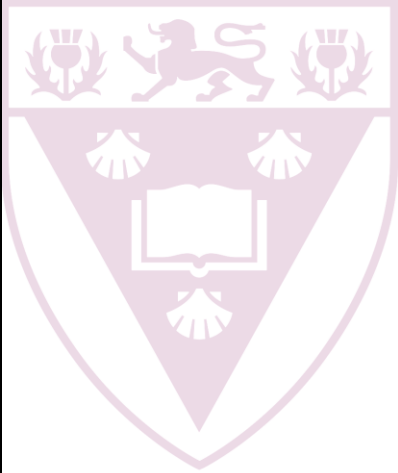
GOAL 7: To promote Rhodes University as an institution for public good in the local, provincial, national and international contexts.

OBJECTIVE	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	REPORT
7.1 Establish local government collaboration with Makana Municipality and strategic business partnerships that address Grahamstown challenges.	Number of strategic and active partnerships formed to address the challenges of Grahamstown.	The SRC President and the SRC Community Engagement Councillor attended the Eastern Cape Liquor Board Anti Underage Drinking Ambassadorship

		<p>Launch at BB Zondani Hall on Wednesday the 19th of May. The campaign is part of a collaborative project between the EC Liquor Board, the Rhodes University SRC, the Makana Municipality, Department of Social Development, Department of Health, South African Breweries, and the South African Police Service in an attempt to curb the excessive use and underage use of alcohol in the Eastern Cape. The SRC President delivered a motivational speech to the audience of learners and the SRC Community Engagement Councillor was the Programme Director.</p> <p>The SRC Community Engagement Councillor attended the Sophumelela Youth Development Programme Launch on the 2nd of May 2021. It is a tutoring and mentoring programme located in Joza, Makhanda. The Programme is aimed at addressing the</p>
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		<p>literacy crisis in Makhanda and has support from RUCE and the SRC Community Engagement Councillor</p> <p>The SRC Community Engagement Councillor and the RUCE Community Liasion Officer Nosi Nkwinti held a juice box drive for a Youth Day event in eThembela in Makhanda. We could not attend the event, but we managed to acquire 24 six packs of juice to donate to the event.</p> <p>The SRC Community Engagement Councillor met with Nosi Nkwinti from RUCE to discuss the viability of having a Vegetable Garden at Fikizolo Primary School. She mentioned that the school already had a vegetable garden but also mentioned the possibility of establishing a Programme that is centered around teaching learners sustainable methods of food production. On the 4th of June, the</p>
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		<p>Community Engagement Councillor along with the RUCE Community Liaison Officer Nosi Nkwinti visited Fikizolo Primary School and spoke to Deputy Principal Matinise who spoke to the School Management Team which has approved the project.</p>
<p>7.2 Promote, establish and co-manage community partners development partnerships with local NGOs and Public Institutions and Private Organizations.</p>	<p>Percentage of partnerships with co-management & participatory involvement of community members.</p>	<p>The RUCE Community Relations Liaison and Siyakhana at Makhana Coordinator Nosi Nkwinti and SRC Community partner meet and greet. Several key points were raised during this meet and greet, such as the duties of CE Reps as well as the role of CE Reps in student governance.</p> <p>The Rhodes University model to community engagement was also explained.</p> <p>The CE Reps were afforded the chance to meet their community partners for the year and collaboratively plan the projects that they would like to undertake during the year.</p>

	<p>Number of strategic and active partnerships formed to address the challenges of Grahamstown</p>	<p>The President was invited to attend the launch of the National Youth Development Policy 2020-2030 on 5 March.</p> <p>The President attended the President-President Dialogue on Free Education. It was also attended by the Deputy Minister of Education, and the agenda was to articulate the viability of free education amongst other issues.</p> <p>The President was invited by Dr Precious Moloji-Motsepe to speak on the Chancellor's Forum on 22 June, to establish the role of the Chancellor's Forum.</p> <p>The SRC Community Engagement Councillor formed part of a delegation led by Director of Community Engagement Di Hornby to speak the Community Engagement Workshop held at</p>
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		Kingswood College on the 5th of May. This served as an attempt to embed community engagement as part of the academic curriculum at the school and not as an extracurricular activity.
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DSA GOAL 1: Strengthen ability to provide quality counselling and academic advising to students.

OBJECTIVE	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	REPORT
1.3 Increase capacity and have adequate resources.	Reduction of waiting list and vacancies filled (1:20).	The Activism and Transformation councillor attended meetings with the Mental Health Task Team. At this meeting, ways to mitigate the issue of the counselling centre being overwhelmed with cases was discussed. The possibility of an app to assist in this regard was also discussed, and it was noted that it is currently being worked on by the Healthcare centre.
1.4 Promote respect for confidentiality and professional ethics.	Continuous Professional Development.	The former Media Councillor drafted a handbook on how the media team should function. This document was presented to

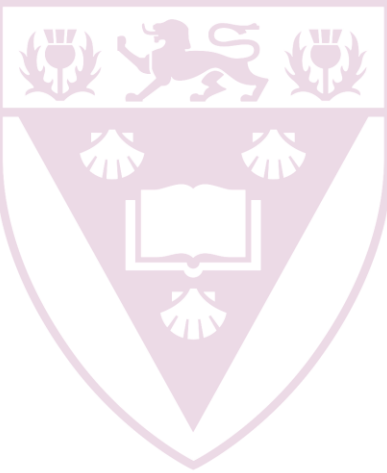
		<p>all media team members in term 1.</p> <p>To consolidate information in the handbook, the media team will have frequent training sessions to promote efficiency in their course of work. The first media team training was held on 4 June.</p> <p>During this training, the need for discipline and adherence to a code of ethics was emphasised.</p>
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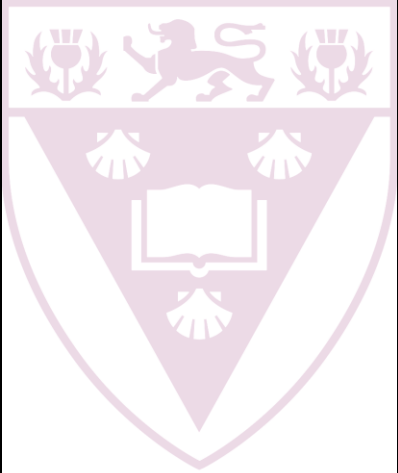
DSA GOAL 2: Promote a sexually responsible citizenry and safe community within Rhodes University.

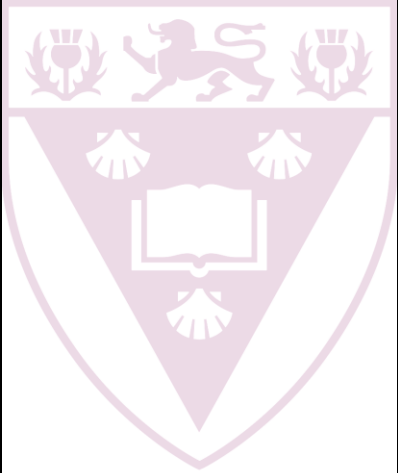
OBJECTIVE	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	REPORT
2.2 Promote an environment free from any form of discrimination.	Trainings and workshops provided during O week and throughout the year.	The Activism and Transformation Councillor and the Projects manager organised Purple Thursday for the virtual orientation week and put together videos to educate the students on issues around transformation such as LGBTQIP++ awareness, mental health awareness and institutional culture. The videos could not be aired as scheduled due to the cancellation of the

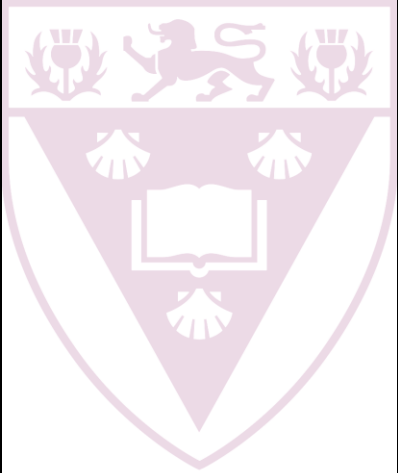
		Orientation week programme. They were uploaded to RuConnected at a later stage.
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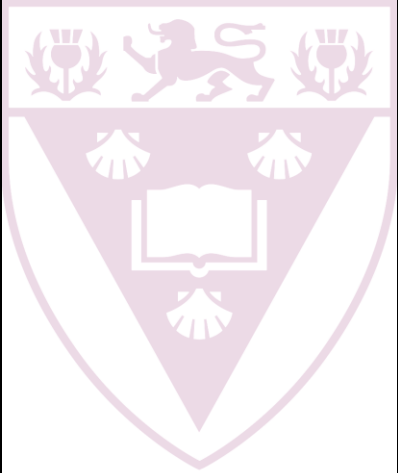
DSA GOAL 3: Provide enriched student experiences for all students at Rhodes University.

OBJECTIVE	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	REPORT
<p>3.2 Purposeful provision of programmes and initiatives that supplement and enrich students' experience holistically.</p> 	<p>Student leadership development</p> <p>Effective and ethical running of student governance.</p>	<p>The former Media Councillor started the creation of an SRC booklet to be published at the end of the year. This booklet will comprise semester reports, conferences attended as well as events hosted by the SRC.</p> <p>Emergency Food Drive: During a community protest in June, the Residence Councillor together with the Community Engagement Councillor, SRC Hall Reps, House Head Students, and Oppidan committee members jointly worked to ensure both Residence and Oppidan students gained access to food donated by other students as all shops were shutdown following the strike.</p>

		<p>The SRC spearheaded by the Media Councillor hosted a media team meet and greet. This event was aimed at introducing the Media Team to the rest of the SRC council to bridge the gap of communication. Several members of the SRC, including the Student Development Officer spoke at the event and reiterated the continued need to practice ethical leadership as a substructure.</p> <p>The Vice-President called the first sitting of student parliament. This sitting was called to elect the speaker, deputy speaker and secretary.</p> <p>The Projects Manager was in charge of the virtual side of the sitting.</p> <p>The SRC launched a COVID-19 campaign in May to serve as a reminder to students that caution must still be exercised in light of the ongoing pandemic. The</p>
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		<p>SRC hopes to continue raising awareness in the coming semester.</p> <p>The SRC Community Engagement Councillor met with the Sports Council Community Engagement Representative, Emma Wagenaar and the Sports and Societies Councillor to discuss formulation of a policy which will hold Community Engagement Representatives in the Sports Executive Committees accountable. A task team was established to this effect which comprises of the Community Engagement Councillor, the Sports and Societies Councillor, the Community Engagement representative on the Sports Council, Nosi Nkwinti and Anna Talbot from RUCE. A proposal from the Task Team will be sent to the Vice President.</p> <p>In addition, the Sports Community Engagement Representatives have been enrolled to the Asset Based</p>
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		<p>Project Management Course on RuConnected as part of the Siyakhana at Makhana Programme.</p> <p>The Activism and Transformation Councillor presented the Tall Trees project to council after being approached by the writers. This project entails the publication of a “book” which is meant to help other students navigate across the university space and is essentially a survival guide. The SRC has worked in collaboration with the students who put together the publication to edit it. The Activism and Transformation Councillor will meet up with the students to discuss a way forward.</p> <p>The SRC through the President hosted the Know Your Rights campaign on the 13th of May. This event contextualized the protest that took place on campus and spoke to the viability of</p>
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		<p>free education. There were a variety of topics and presentations delivered by different speakers ranging from Sanele kaNtshingana, Lukhanyo Tshongweni Nqobile Nzimande among many others.</p> <p>The Academic Councillor has been constantly working with the Media Councillor to advertise and encourage students to apply for the DHL GradStar 2021 awards. GradStar gives students the opportunity to meet with potential employers, companies and organisations. Emails have been sent to the student body to encourage them to sign up.</p>
<p>3.5 Create a welcoming and professional environment with the use of modernised, user-friendly systems, policies and procedures.</p>	<p>Policies easily accessible on website. Updated website. Modern technological systems and communication strategies.</p>	<p>The website is constantly updated by the Media Councillor. Updates include Council meeting minutes, Council member profiles and contact details as well as general SRC activities.</p>
<p>3.7 Promote awareness of services offered in the DSA.</p>	<p>One awareness campaign per term.</p>	<p>The Activism and Transformation Councillor</p>

		<p>hosted a Disability Awareness Event. Student services was invited to be part of the programme planning and Ms Veronica Israel from the DSA gave a presentation on the available services Rhodes provided. The event also had speakers from the Pharmacy and politics department around raising awareness on disability challenges in campus and particularly in the Rhodes University context.</p>
<p>3.9 Promote Inclusive Student Support Services including a focus on students with Disabilities, International Students and Oppidan Students.</p>	<p>100% of students presenting themselves are assisted.</p>	<p>The International Affairs Councillor assisted students who needed to obtain documents from the Student Bureau to obtain VISAS. Queries were forwarded to the DSA on the possibility of Mid-Year Vacation Accommodation. A positive response was received. The Division of Student Affairs, International Office and the Outgoing and Incoming SRC International Affairs Councillor worked collaboratively on this.</p>

		Applications were opened for international students wishing to stay in residence over the vacation period. 21 applications were received, and all applicants were successful.
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HIGHLIGHTS.

1. 3 members of the current SRC are 2020 graduates.
2. The SRC hosted its first ever Postgraduate Forum on 21 May.
3. The State of The University Address was a success and was attended by a significant portion of the student body. It was held on 15 April.
4. The SRC’S continued reiteration of how to keep safe during a pandemic.
5. The President was asked to be a panellist on Youth Day at a webinar hosted by NewzRoom Africa.
6. The Academic Councillor following reports from Deans concerning low participation in course content, initiated a programme of discussion groups and internal mentorship programmes to increase student engagement. This was done through class reps and faculty reps.
7. The SRC hosted a number of successful events, including the #KnowYourRights Campaign on 13 May and the Diverseability event on 8 May. The SRC also hosted the Hall Academic Talks between 6 and 11 June.
8. The former International Affairs Councillor with the assistance of the President were able to assist international students who wished to stay on campus during the Mid-Year Vacation period.
9. 18 sports Community Engagement Representatives were enrolled to the Asset Based Project Management Course for the first time.

GRATITUDE.

The SRC wishes to extend a warm thank you to the following people and divisions:

1. The Student Development and Support Officer, Mr Eric Ofei for his unwavering support and advice to ensure we navigate the leadership space successfully.
2. The Division of Student Affairs for the assistance provided.
3. The Centre for Postgraduate Studies and Postgraduate Funding Office for all the assistance provided to date.
4. The Rhodes University Community Engagement Office (RUCE) for being proactive in their collaborations with the SRC.
5. Senior management for being a proactive co-governance partner in finding middle ground to address the student needs.
6. The Registrar's Division and Financial Aid Office staff for constantly assisting the SRC in effective service delivery.
7. The SRC substructures for continuously working and availing themselves to ensure the success of SRC projects
8. The SRC alumni for constantly being able to provide advice in navigating the leadership space.

CHALLENGES

CHALLENGES	INTERVENTIONS
The O week Programme had to be halted due to protests in light of NSFAS funding issues and other pertinent issues.	The programmes that were unable to air during O week were moved to another date.
There have been difficulties with updating the website due to the new Media Councillor having not received her training on how to navigate the website.	The current Media Councillor will be receiving training at the earliest available opportunity, to ensure that the website is fully functional and constantly updated.
The International week Programme had to be postponed due to the Makhanda Shutdown. The International Week Language Carousel was later cancelled.	The events that were postponed with the exception of the language carousel were held at a later date. It could not be held after due to difficulties with finding appropriate dates to suit everyone
The Academic Councillor drafted a proposal for a possible contact graduation.	The Graduation proposal will not be pursued anymore.

<p>However, it is almost impossible to implement or see feasibility, in light of the new waves of Covid-19.</p>	
<p>The inability to host contact events which led to low student participation.</p>	<p>Virtual events were hosted as an alternative, after the end of the academic day, 17 30. However, it was still exclusionary to oppidans who have no data once they leave campus.</p>
<p>The Academic Councillor tried to partner with the Nelson Mandela University SRC on a webinar to assist students with entering the workspace after graduating. However, she has received no response to date.</p>	
<p>It has been challenging to navigate the leadership space following resignations.</p>	<p>Ensuring that the incoming SRC members are adequately equipped to continue driving the SRC mission and vision forward.</p>
<p>The Makhanda Shutdown Protest against poor service delivery affected the SRC due to the students being unable to access campus as well as meals.</p>	<p>The SRC liased with senior management on how best the plight of students could be navigated. The academic programme could not be halted. Students were advised to apply for LOA's in cases where they were unable to submit.</p>