STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

TERM 1 REPORT

The content of this Report is informed by the Rhodes University’s Institutional Development Goals (IDP) 2023-2028, the Division of Student Affairs (DSA) Goals and the 2023 SRC Mission and Vision Statements.

**SRC MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS**

**MISSION**

As the Action-Based SRC, we strive to not only for academic excellence but to empower the student body to be eco-conscious and to be socially responsible students. We stay committed in ensuring that students are holistically well to be better adaptive in our evolving environment. We aim to empower and positively impact the lives of not only the student body, but of the community amongst us. We also pledge to represent students from all walks of life regardless of race, gender, socioeconomic background and all other factors that make us unique.

**VISION**

To the SRC that is Action-Based and empowers students to use their voices and determine the course of their lives to reach their full potential.

**GOALS**

As the 2022 SRC represent all students at Rhodes University and their overall interests. We wholly embrace all that defines our motto “Where Leaders Learn”.

**ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

To promote and ensure that the student body is fully equipped with all the necessary support to reach maximum performance in their intellectual capacities.

**ECO-CONSCIOUSNESS**

To educate the student body to be eco-conscious changemakers, and to continue cultivating sustainable habits by keeping abreast with ecological conversations.

**INCLUSIVITY**

To acknowledge the value in our diversities and to promote a prejudice-free environment by eliminating all forms of discrimination and othering. As leaders, we will embrace all dimensions of gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, age, status, physical abilities and other ideologies to reshape perspectives and change the dynamic.

**STUDENT EMPOWERMENT AND LEADERSHIP**

To encourage the student body to be able to use their agency by communicating their grievances effectively and diligently map out their expectations to the student representative. To also build trust within student governance structures by overall creating a strong culture of engagement and a commitment to support emerging student leaders.

**COLLABORATION**

To build positive relationships and working together with all university stakeholders and community stakeholders by communicating effectively and proposing solutions to matters that affect the student body.

**INTERNATIONALISATION**

To continue advocating for internationalization in order to promote networking and

knowledge production.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

To groom community activists and globally responsible citizens that will utilise their skills in service for humanity and the world.

**HOLISTIC WELLNESS**

To guarantee a healthy academic journey, the body, mind and spirit must be integrated to support total well-being. To promote wellness through various drives, seminars and other creative outlets to relieve us of the impact our universe may have on us.

**RHODES UNIVERSITY INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

1. Ensure quality scholarly teaching and learning to enable students to access powerful knowledge, engage in their learning and become critical problem solvers who are socially responsible global citizens.
2. Promote access to Rhodes University for academically qualifying students and create academic conditions which enable them to thrive and succeed.
3. Create an engaging and transformative student experience that promotes holistic development, growth and academic success.
4. Maintain and strengthen Rhodes University’s standing as a research-intensive university.
5. Ensure financial and environmental sustainability practices through good governance, effective leadership and prudent resource management.
6. Attract, develop, and retain quality staff.
7. Invest in appropriate physical infrastructure, equipment and digital technology.
8. Position and promote Rhodes University as an Institution for the public good.

Reference: Rhodes University IDP Strategic Goals 2023-2028.

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS STRETEGIC 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.

**2023 RHODES UNIVERSITY SRC COUNCILLORS**

President: Ms. Avuxeni Tyala

Vice-President: Ms. Putuma Balintulo

Secretary-General: Mr. Lazarus Kgageng

Treasurer-General: Mr. Varshan Pillay

Community Engagement Councillor: Mr. Lihle Manene

Media Councillor: Ms. Nqobile Makamu

Academic Councillor: Ms. Tshepo Malebana

Activism and Transformation Councillor: Mr. Ibabale Sobekwa

International Affairs Councillor: Ms. Tsidzo Hove

Environmental Councillor: Mr. James Njoloza

Oppidan Councillor: Mr. Adrian February

Postgraduate Affairs Councillor: Mrs. Milisa Mamase

Projects Manager: Mr. Thabiso Ngubane

Residence Councillor: Mr. Simphiwe Mnyande

Sports and Societies Councillor: Mr. Buhle Luthuli

Student Benefits &amp; Sponsorship Councillor: Mr. Indiphile Ralo

REPORT

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| OBJECTIVE | KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR | REPORT |
| 3.1 Strengthen the comprehensive and integrated student orientation programme that facilitates a smooth entry, adjustment and integration of first-year students into university life and culture. | Comprehensive & integrated student orientation programme | On the 5th February 2023, the SRC President delivered a welcome speech to the first entering students whereby she introduced the years plans the SRC have.  The SRC therefore introduced themselves to the first-entering students on the February 2023 by introducing their names and portfolios to familiarize the students with what the SRC does and how to get in contact with the SRC.  During Orientation Week, the SRC launched an Academic Trivia to the Student which was used to educate the first entering students about various components of Rhodes University and its history as an institution. |
|  | Numbers of sporting/social events organised annually | The SRC introduced a project called Amazing Race where students participated in a marathon which started from the Great Hall and ended at Hilltop 7. The residence that won the trophy was Matthew House. |
|  |  | On the 10th February, the SRC had a Sports and Societies Exhibit at the Allec Mullins which provided students the chance to be introduced to different sports clubs and the Societies were set up at the Union Lawns to serve the same purpose to market themselves to the students. |
|  | Number of students involved in formal Rhodes University community engaged learning programmes | During the Orientation Week, the SRC partnered with the Rhodes University Community Engagement Office to host the Community Engagement Extravaganza whereby student where provided the chance to register to be student leaders and student volunteers. |
|  | 3.3 Provide holistic and responsive psycho-social support services to all students. | The SRC hosted a Purple Picnic event on the 9th February 2023 as a way of providing the students with an opportunity to socialize and network.  On the 11th February 2023, the SRC hosted an Acoustic Evening which was to provide the Student Body, both the first entering and returning students an element of uncontrolled musical experience on campus with an element of performances from the student body as part of the program. |
|  |  | The SRC partnered with Gift of the Givers, MINA and other stakeholders to successfully launch the MINA CUP at the Union Theatre with the mandate of eradicating period poverty. A portion of 1000 cups where donated and placed in the care of the Rhodes University Health Care Centre.  Conversations were started around destigmatization that surrounds menstruation. |
| 5.10 Ensure the fulfilment of regulatory transparency and accountability requirements for public higher education institutions in South Africa. | Ethical leadership | The SRC embarked on a project titled Thuma Mina Project, where the SRC visited the residential houses on campus to evaluate the state they are in, meet with the house committees and take note of all the issues which the house committee raises. This project commenced on the 22nd of February, 2023 and ended on the..  The SRC visited all 55 residential Houses on campus and worked collectively with the Division of Student Affairs and the Wardening Team. |
| 2.1 Develop and implement an integrated plan and approach to local and international student recruitment that enables diversity in student composition | 2.1 Number of first-time entering undergraduate students | Through the Internationalization Extravaganza the SRC hosted at the Great Hall on the of February 2023 as a way of embracing and spreading the spirit of internationalization. The project was in collaboration with the International Office with the common intention of integrating the international students who enrolled at Rhodes University for 2023 into our institutional culture.  During the Orientation Week, the SRC acknowledged – students who were exchange students.  The SRC further invited Makana Tourism who had a stall informing international students about the Makana area.  The German, French and Chinese Departments also had stalls that covered various aspects of the world. The Alumni House was part of the collaboration in the sense that they provided gift bags that were given to the students as prizes for the Quizz.  The SRC Vice President also presented her real-life experience with travelling around the world. |
|  | 2.4 Annual Rand amount raised for student funding | On the , the SRC President received a donation from the Motsepe Foundation worth R 800 000. The SRC therefore decided to a portion of the donation to clear students. Precisely, the SRC worked with R650 000 to register students  From Friday, 10th of March 2023, the SRC successfully registered 118 students. The number of students registered under this initiative comprised both Undergraduates and Postgraduate students. Regarding postgraduates, students from LIB PGCE, PDEM Honours in chemistry, and Masters Students were registered.This initiative was a joint venture of the SRC working collectively with the Student Fees Office.  The donation was allocated as follows:  65% for registeration, 15% for student wellness, 15% for gender parity, and the remaining 5% was allocated to emergency funds. |
| 3.7 Provide comprehensive and coherent leadership development and training opportunities for students. | 3.7 Number of leadership development programmes organised for students annually | On the 09th March 2023, the SRC and the IEB inaugurated the Postgraduate Affairs Councillor and 13 SRC Hall Representative. This was to welcome the Postgraduate Affairs Councillor into the SRC and to assemble the SRC Hall Representatives as a substructure of the SRC that will work alongside the Residence Councillor.  The Vice-President convened the Student Parliament on the 15th March 2023 whereby the speaker, deputy speaker and secretary were elected in the presence of the IEB.  The Speaker: Puleng Phihlela  The Deputy Speaker:  The Secretary: |
| 3.8 Enhance safety of students in university residences. | 3.8 Number of reported incidences of breach of students’ safety in Rhodes University residences | A sewage burst occurred in Dingemans House occurred on the 1st March 2023.  The SRC met with the residential stakeholders of Rhodes University on the 2nd of March 2023 to discuss a way forward on the issue. On 3rd March 2023, an external engineer was arranged to inspect Dingemans House and its plumbing system. This inspection occurred at 09:00 am the same day. The engineer then confirmed that he would write a report on the inspection finding and get back to Mr. Van Dyk as soon as possible.   There was flooding that occurred in Cory House on the 6th of March 2023, which subsequently led to the ceiling collapsing into a room and the corridor of the House. The SRC met with Mr. Van Dyk to discuss a way forward for Cory House and a possible collective solution for the residences. |
| 8.3 Create and sustain strategic, mutually beneficial and collaborative partnerships and alliances with national, continental and international institutions | 8.1 Number of strategic and active partnerships formed to co-manage the challenges of Makhanda | The SRC partnered to host a #YOUTHVOTEMATTERS with the Independent Electoral Commission to raise awareness on the importance of voting and to encourage the voting empathy that has been recognized in the Eastern Cape and in Makhanda specifically.  The SRC hosted delegates from the Makana Municipality. |
| 3.9 Promote Inclusive student support services including a focus on students with Disabilities, |  | The SRC worked collectively with the Division of Student Affairs to arrange a meet and greet with the differently abled students. The SRC further organized transport for the differently-abled students to move around campus during Orientation Week and first week. |
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| OBJECTIVE | PERFORMANCE INDICATOR | REPORT |
| General SRC WORK |  |  |
| 5.7 Reduce carbon footprint and environmental impact through sustainable waste management | 5.8 Waste management plan developed and implemented | The Environmental Councillor together with the Residential Environmental Representatives conducted a river clean up on the 10th February 2023 to remove waster in the environment and also to promote awareness around waster management. This was conducted around the Scotts’ Farm.  The Environmental Councillor further forms part of the River Rescue which is an on-going project that does the clean up and raises awareness as part of Environmental Education about the impact of waste in the rivers around Makhanda. |
| 3.10 Provide organised community engaged learning opportunities for students to contribute to the development of Makhanda and gain invaluable experiential and community-based learning, growth and development. | 3.10 Number of students involved in formal Rhodes University community engaged learning programmes | The Community Engagement Councillor facilitated a Student Leader Training on the 01st February 2023. The purpose of the training was to induct the Community Engagement Representatives of the residential. He further assisted the representatives in administering the Community Engagement Orientation Short Courses.  On the 11th February 2023, the Community Engagement Councillor facilitated the Community Engagement Extravaganza which had more 906 students engaged with the extravaganza and 645 students completed the bases. |
| 3.1 Strengthen the comprehensive and integrated student orientation programme that facilitates a smooth entry, adjustment and integration of first-year students into university life and culture. | 3.1 Comprehensive & integrated student orientation programme achieved annually | The Community Engagement Councillor ensured that the Rhodes University Community Engagement Division collaborates with the SRC to donate 1000 door hangers that included all the Community Engagement volunteerism programmes. |
| 1.2 Provide professional, efficient and effective career counselling services to students seeking career services | Quantity of students reaching out to assist with academics and financial appeals | The Academic Councillor together with the President started assisting the students with their academics appeals from the to an extended date of 23rd January 2023. However, they continued to accept and assist students who enquired and requested for assistance with the appeals way after the cut-off date has lapsed.  The Academic Councillor ensured that her substructures were elected and functioning. The Faculty Representatives were elected on the with the presence of the IEB. |
|  |  | The Student Benefits and Sponsorship Councillor as well as the Secretary-General when his assistance was required, assisted students with setting up their financial appeals documentations. The guidelines of NSFAS were shared with the students and they were assisted in structuring their motivations. |
| 3.2 Purposeful provision of programmes and initiatives that supplement and enrich students’ experience holistically | Success of the Orientation Week | The Student Benefit and Sponsorship Councillor started preparing for the Orientation Week’s aspect of providing welcome bags to the First Entering Students early December 2022. He approached and secured sponsorships from a few businesses around Makhanda.  Together with the former Projects Manager, they managed to get over 15 sponsorships to contribute towards the Orientation Week Welcome Bags with bags, pens, vouchers and pamphlets. |
| 3.2 Purposeful provision of programmes and initiatives that supplement and enrich students’ experience holistically |  | The Media Councillor ensured that there was visibility of what was happening from the beginning to the end of the Orientation Week.  On the 4th and 5th February 2023, The Media team ensured that the the SRC engaged with the students and parents using the Instagram Board which created awareness on our social media platforms via Facebook and Instagram. The Media Team further captured the Vice Chancellor’s speech and shared it on our social media platforms.  Successfully, the Media Councillor and the Media Team covered the entire Orientation Week together with its programmes and events and shared them on our social media platforms. |
|  |  | On the 10th February 2023, the International Affairs Councillor spearheaded the first ever Internationalization Extravaganza that integrated various stakeholders of Rhodes University.  She mastered the Ceremony together with the Activism and Transformation Councillor. |
| 3.5 Create a welcoming and professional environment with the use of modernised, user-friendly systems, policies and procedures. | Modernised technological systems and communication strategies | The SRC through the social media platforms, introduced the communication tool known as “Did You Know” whereby the SRC shares important information that is too brief to form a statement. This forms as remainders and conversational angles. |
|  |  | The Media Councillor and Media Team created a graduation video with the Vice Chancellor that debuted the Graduation Week and the video has received over 37 000 reactions on Instagram.  During Graduation, the Media Councillor and the Media Team conducted interviews with the students and the parents on the journey they embarked together that led them to the graduation day. This was all showcased on our social media platforms. |
| 3.4 Promote active participation in sports as part of a holistic healthy lifestyles program. | Annual campus-wide sign-up event | The Sports and Societies Councillor worked collectively with the Sports Admin and various societies as well sports clubs that are existing at Rhodes University to ensure that the Sports and Societies Exhibit that took place at Allec Mullins and Union Lawns simultaneously was a success.  The sign-ups for societies were held at the Great Field on the … and the Sports and Societies Councillor ensured that the societies received the sign-up sheets and there was electrical connection. |
| 3.3 Promote and coordinate sporting events for students as a critical part of student wellness | Sports Events | The Sports and Societies Councillor formed part of the planning and execution of the Varsity Shield matches that has been taking place at Rhodes University. He has been present at the matches and fostered relationships with the stakeholders. |
| 3.8 Provide an environment that is conducive for living and learning | Quality of Life Survey | The Residence Councillor spearheaded the Thuma Mina Project.  Together with the President, he ensured that emergency accommodation was provided to students who were not cleared during and after registration process. |
| 3.9 Promote Inclusive student support services including a focus on students with Disabilities, |  | The President and the Activism and Transformation Councillor attended the Meet and Greet with the differently-abled students. |
| 8.3 Create and sustain strategic, mutually beneficial and collaborative partnerships and alliances with national, continental and international institutions | 8.1 Number of strategic and active partnerships formed to co-manage the challenges of Makhanda | The Activism and Transformation Councillor mastered the programme for the #YOUTHVOTEMATTERS and the President gave a speech to the audiences about the importance of exercising our constitutionally granted right of voting. |
|  |  | The Secretary-General attended the IEC Eastern Cape Seminar where discussions about analysis of coalitions in South Africa, the impact of the Amended Electoral Bill on Voters and the Electoral Trends in the Eastern Cape. |
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