



VSR / SRC

REPORT ON THE OFFICIAL
BENCHMARKING VISIT
TO THE UNIVERSITIES OF
*CAPE TOWN/STELLENBOSCH/
WESTERN CAPE*

19 - 21 APRIL 2012

We would like to extend a word of thanks to the University for giving us the opportunity to go on a benchmarking tour to Cape Town. Two SRC members i.e Jordan Griffiths and Busisiwe Radebe could unfortunately not attend the tour. Herewith the comments by the other members who attended the tour:

Mthokozisi Nkosi - President

University of Cape Town

SRC

- “Partially” political
- Generate their own money by hiring out their Student Centre/Piazza to external companies, corporations or organizations
- More reliable on social networks for communication
- Week long election
- Online voting

Bailout fund

- On average it has a budget of ± R400 000
- Assists students who have debt over R400
- Students have to apply for assistance
- The Fund is not marketed
- Assists needy students – financial need plays a more significant role than academic performance
- It is administered by the Treasurer-General of the SRC
- They have more freedom of expression (debates on Wednesdays)
- Green Campus Parking – carpooling (students carpool and they get parking discounts)
- No Rag Procession as it was stopped two years ago due to a lack of income but would like it back
- Looking into a 24-hour library service (currently the library closes at 22:00 daily)
- SRC run programmes focus on improving soft skills for societies

University of Stellenbosch

- Their SRC is apolitical – individuals get voted on the SRC
- Electroning voting system
- Six places reserved for ex-committee members
- Every registered student can be part of the Student Parliament
- Green Campus Parking – 500 bicycles
- Societies have to pay R250 to register and this money is used for soft skills development
- Greater focus on student support
- No student representative for IS
- No Rag Procession
- ***Security***
 - No boom gates (everyone can access the campus)
 - No security issues (according to the SRC)
- Benchmark with Stanford University (academic standards, initiatives, etc)
- No franchise shows allowed (local businesses)
- Student leadership in place – 25% residences and 75% day students
- Clusters/hubs for day students to make them feel part of the institution
- Free WiFi around campus
- No quota system in the SRC or other student governance structures
- A week long election process
- 24% of the students are black and 76% are white
- Their “student centre” is called Die Neelsie (where the SRC, shops, etc are located and where students can actually relax)

University of the Western Cape

- Completely politically aligned SRC (SASCO)
- SRC members study for free
- Academic student tracking (red flag) system
- Community Engagement (very much engaged with the surrounding community)
- “Go to class Campaign”(give out random prizes, randomly invite celebrities)
- Peer Mentoring Programme
- Rag Procession still in place
- Library open until midnight
- 24-hour computer lab and student centre
- Free uncapped internet and WiFi everywhere
- ***Security***
 - Do not focus too much on security (only The Barn has security at night)
 - Basic medical services provided to the general public
 - Alcohol allowed only after 16:00
- ***Residence placement***
 - Need takes priority
 - Strict evaluation (need, family background, distance from home, etc)

Gerbrand Lindeque - Deputy President & Service Providers

- The Universities of Cape Town and Stellenbosch do not have a Rag Procession anymore – both universities said that they regret this because they say it feels like part of their culture was taken away
- They concluded by saying that although it might be a small financial lost to have the Procession, the cultural gain is priceless!

Kleinbooï Legoabe - Secretary-General

University of Cape Town

Secretariat

The challenges that UCT SRC face are more or less the same as ours. What I learned is the importance of having a free flow of information and making sure that the SRC is accountable to students. Just like our SRC, the UCT SRC sits in almost all the committees of the of their university and their members after attending their meetings and committees account to the SRC by way of writing reports and submitting them to the Secretariat. This is very important so that all members are informed and so that they may challenge any move by the university if not in the interest of student.

Model of their student governance

At UCT you are elected directly from your constituency to be in the SRC. Political parties are eligible to contest as well as independent candidates. Once the SRC is elected they are constituted and among themselves they elect a President. There is no Gender or Racial Quotas when electing the SRC although it is always desirable to have a diverse SRC. Different agencies like the Sports Committee, Residences and Societies are automatically represented in their student parliament. They have the power amongst others to recall any member of the SRC with a two thirds majority.

University of Stellenbosch

Model of Student governance

The SRC is directly elected among the ranks of students. No society can run for SRC. The chairperson of Faculty Houses, Societies and Residences are ex officio members in meetings called by the SRC. The SRC is accountable to the rest of the student community in that all students are allowed to attend and actively participate in their Student Parliament. The only person who is elected at the Student Parliament is the speaker and all students are members of the Student Parliament. The Student Parliament also has the power to recall any member from the SRC but the motion has to be confirmed by the Student Court.

University of the Western Cape

Model Of Student Governance

The SRC is contested along political lines and all societies are eligible to run for the SRC and the society that wins the election wins the seats on the SRC. The SRC at UWC is obliged to call what they call Annual General Meetings each and every year, failure to do so lead to the structure being disbanded and a temporary structure will be put into place. The SRC is also accountable to the Student Assembly. Unlike the SP of the University of Pretoria the SRC of UWC has deliberative powers but cannot vote.

All sub-structures of UWC account to the SRC and fall under specific portfolio members of the SRC. These structures also have ex officio status in the SRC meetings so as to relate to their constituencies when decisions are taken by the SRC.

Tebogo Twala - Treasurer-General

The Student Representative Council of the University of Pretoria was afforded the opportunity to bench-mark at three institutions of higher learning in the Western Cape Province from the 19-21st of April 2012. These institutions included the University of Cape Town (UCT), University of Stellenbosch (US) and lastly, the University of the Western Cape (UWC).

The purpose of this visit was to learn from these three chosen institutions of how they do things similar to what the UP SRC does, e.g. the UCT Bailout Fund and the UP SRC Aid Fund; to ask whether the SRC's from the three institutions experience the same issues we do, e.g. student apathy, NSFAS and high exclusion rates at the beginning of every academic year; and see what other programmes the SRC run unanimously with student interest in mind, like the "Go to Class Campaign" initiated by the UWC SRC.

From the office of the Treasurer-General of the UP SRC, the trip to the three institutions focused on asking questions around the following:

- a. SRC Budget
- b. SRC's role in resolving Study Finance issues
- c. Academic Support for the SRC
- d. Relationship with University Management
- e. Confidentiality Clause on Statutory Bodies& Committees

The institutions that will mainly be compared in this report will be UP, UCT and UWC. Unfortunately our visit to US was mainly a campus tour, and due to time constraints, discussion time was limited and the opportunity to ask about the focal points mentioned **above was not available.**

SRC Budget

The income received from the various institutions differed mainly depending on the capacity of the students studying at the institutions. The UCT SRC received R300 000, UWC R1,6 million and UP R1,8 million this year. The allocation of funds for the various portfolios in the SRC's solely depends on the Plan of Action for the year. Most of the fund allocations are centred around students, whether it be for entertainment like the UWC's R250 000 SRC Fresher's Bash or meeting students overall needs of food and textbooks like the UP's R100 000 SRC Feeding Scheme and the R180 000 SRC Textbook Fund.

SRC's role in resolving Study Finance issues

Unfortunately, NSFAS is a problem in all the institutions. But what was interesting with the UCT SRC was that the Treasurer persuaded the Study Finance Division of UCT to push the application due date back to March each year to give both first and senior year students enough opportunity to apply for financial aid. That unfortunately would not work in UP because already there are problems with NSFAS paying out late, students receiving money in their accounts even later and administrative issues from the institutions side. What was evident with regards to NSFAS and other Study Finance opportunities provided by institutions was that SRC's in all three institutions saw the need to be well-informed of these opportunities to inform their fellow students to follow the correct processes in order to receive the financial assistance needed for the students to perform academically.

In terms of SRC's playing an active role with regards to financially assisting students, the UCT & UWC SRC both have Bailout Funds. The former SRC focuses on relieving all students, including international students, with outstanding debts of the previous academic year. The income to that fund is generated through internal and external sponsorships. The latter SRC focuses on paying registration fees for students from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds, where income is generated from the use of the student centre by external corporations whose target audience are students.

The UP SRC on the other hand, only started to implement its SRC Aid Fund, similar to the Bailout Funds of the two SRC's, which not only plans to focus on purchasing textbooks for students, but also assist with paying registration fees for students from disadvantaged backgrounds .

Academic Support for the SRC

SRC's across all institutions take up the leadership role and are expected to do so and be students that perform well academically at the same time.

The Deputy Chairperson: Internal, of UCT revealed in a discussion that the average of an SRC member drops by 10% once they take up the role of SRC. This is an issue across all institutions and it seems like SRC's are not looking after their own interests as students and demand the academic support they deserve as a special group of young people with the responsibility of leadership. In all the institutions visited, none of them, like UP, indicated the presence of academic support made available by the institutions for SRC members.

Relationship with University Management

The UCT SRC indicated that the relationship with its university management is co-operative. The SRC exhausts all platform of discussion and influences people in decision-making bodies of their view which has the student's interests at heart. The UWC SRC on the other hand is more militant and shows their dissatisfaction on certain issues by mass protests and bringing the institution to a stand-still. This according to them has produced results and forces university management to review the decision to be made and allow compromise from both parties.

Confidentiality Clause on Statutory Bodies & Committees

The SRC in all the institutions agree that the confidentiality clause in university statutory bodies is a problem, causing lack of factual communication and comprehensive deliberation on institutional matters as the highest decision-making student structures. SRC members can be tempted to put across their personal views on matters that were not agreed on by the SRC and has the support of the student community. Due to this clause and the fact that SRC's do not continue for more than one term as a body, decisions affecting students are made and you find that there is nothing the next SRC can do because a decision was made and now needs to be implemented with a new SRC in office.

Angel Bolosha - Community Engagement

University of Cape Town

As the community engagement SRC I went on the benchmarking trip to represent my portfolio and find out how other institutions especially their SRC deal with or perform, if any, their community based projects and maybe how they integrate it into their faculties too.

Our first stop was UCT and I wanted to know how involved the SRC was in Community Engagement. The response was that it is not something mandatory for the SRC to do considering the number of development agencies already present who fully dedicate their time to these projects. The development agencies fully involved in the community development work are "SHAWCO" as well as "RAG". SHAWCO is an organization that will use up all the funds raised by RAG for the different projects they do for the community i.e. Health, Education, Entrepreneurship etc.

What I learned is the vast amount of ways in which students can be involved in community based projects. Tuks Rag, with assistance from the SRC Member for Community Engagement, can start up ways in which we can get students involved, e.g by having volunteers who will go out monthly to help with the mobile clinics in the communities. In overall UCT gave me a different view point in ways in which community work can be done but as for the SRC they did not mention themselves being involved as a group the way we will be as the Tuks SRC.

University of Stellenbosch

The SRC briefly tapped onto the Community Engagement work as an SRC but mentioned the different ways in which the students as a whole can get involved and are involved in community work.

University Of Western Cape

This SRC explained their involvement as an SRC in their community. As an SRC they have set out to help the kids in their surrounding poor communities such as Khayelitsha. They went to an orphan school and showed the kids around their institution, played sports with them and this was their way to inspire the children. They also mentioned other initiatives such as their senior students mentoring with Mathematics and Science to Grade 11 and 12 learners.

What I can really take out of this benchmarking trip is the importance of community work either as students or as the highest governing structures. The difference we make should not be limited as communities need as much assistance as they can get.

The visit to the above universities have inspired me as a person but most importantly inspired me to get the greater student body involved in community engagement work.

Tsatsi Chauke - Societies

Objective of Benchmarking trip

- To learn from SRC's of other institutions
- To gain more insight on student governance across the country
- To discuss matters of student representation and issues affecting the student in this era

University of Cape Town (UCT)

The University of Cape Town has a unique nature to them they are a university of immense diversities and so are their different societies. With only 20 registered they are able to regulate and facilitate their societies, I also recognize that they have 25 000 students therefore less societies. They generate money for the Council by hiring out their Student Centre to the societies that would like to use the space.

UCT has a culture of debate and discussions amongst the student population at large and we

could incorporate that into our societies to create a culture of debate between our societies as this will expand their knowledge, public speaking skills and many other skills. Thus developing the students not only inside the classroom but also in the “real world”

University of Stellenbosch

What I admire about the SRC Member for societies at US is her passion for societies and this highly inspired me. At US the registration process for societies is similar to ours. They are hoping to introduce a system where registration documents can be handed in on the varsity website; I strongly believe that this system could possibly work for us as well. They charge each society R250 as registration fee and this is used for the skills development of societies. With this fee the SRC is able to organise leadership development programmes of the respective societies. The societies rely on membership fees of the members of their society. The SRC does have a subsidy budget which aids societies should they need any further financial assistance. This subsidy works on an application bases.

University of the Western Cape (UWC)

The homely nature of this university inspired me. At UWC societies are regulated with a monthly Society’s Council hosted by the SRC Member for Societies. At this meeting societies raise issues of concern and societies are asked to report back on their activities. It is important for us to start take care of the needs of our societies as they represent the larger student body.

Conclusion

The most interesting thing I found out was that student governance structures face the same type of problems and challenges. It was a very informative trip; interacting with other SRC’s helped us to gain perspective and to share ideas on how we can improve student governance, but most importantly how best we can improve on serving the students. This trip taught us a lot what we should continue doing, and what we should improve on.

Pierre Cloete - Safety, Security & Facilities

Purpose

The purpose of visit was to gain information on their Facilities and Security Management

Lessons learned from the experience

University of Stellenbosch

Faculty Committees are in place regarding Security and issues are discussed in these committees and a presentation is made to Management and the SRC regarding Security. Most security issues come from these committees and a wide spectrum of opinions and experiences regarding security come from these committees.

Access to the campus is not controlled via the entry gates (except to get access to buildings and parking on campus) and people who are not students can easily access the campus. Security is not such a big concern because of the small size of the town itself but it creates a small threat for the security of students. Regarding this issue the University of Pretoria has a fair system in place with regard to access to the campus for non-students.

Post-graduate students have a separate section in the library where they can access internet and do research throughout the day. This section seems very effective because of the high occupation of the sources provided.

Franchise shops are not allowed to sell food on the campus and contracts regarding this aspect are given to local businesses. This is done to help local businesses and the small business economy. I also believe if these shops are regulated in a proper manner, it will reduce food prices. But this matter will need further investigation.

University of Western Cape

Security is provided on campus at night especially outside The Barn (a local pub and restaurant on campus) to secure the security of students and facilities at all times.

Facilities are in place and basic medical services are provided to the public. This initiative shows that the local university gives back to the community and research regarding this aspect can be done by the University of Pretoria if there is a need for such services in the area of the University.

Post-graduate students have their own level in the library where students can do research and study/work on projects.

Additional visits

I attended the Sustainable Campus Summit hosted by the Minister of Higher Education, Blade Nzimande and the Minister of Environmental Affairs, NosiphoNgcaba. The Summit discussed how campuses can become greener and more environmental-friendly.

Thinus Dicks - Day & Faculty Houses

Introduction

It was a busy weekend but I am sure it will bear fruit. During our visit to the 3 universities, I was amazed by how similar our problems were and inspired by the unique solutions each had to offer. As South Africa is the academic leader of Africa, collaboration between SA universities has become critical, especially with regards to student governance. I will briefly set aside the most prominent insights I have gained during this weekend by elaborating on 2 of our visits.

University of Cape Town

UCT's SRC conducted research and found that residential students are more involved in student life and that they have a higher pass rate than day students. Day students are often a much neglected majority. This is evident in our institution as well where 2 SRC members were assigned to residences whereas the Day Student (or Day House) portfolio is managed by the SRC Member for Faculty Houses. The Day Students and Faculty Houses (or Faculty Councils) also work much closer with the SRC at UCT than they do in our model. While not strictly confined to my portfolio, they also have business cards which add a lot to the convenience and image of the SRC.

University of Stellenbosch

The University of Stellenbosch prides itself on the progress it made with regard to student governance during the last few years. They have managed to bridge the gap between Day and Res students quite effectively – an issue where UP is still lagging behind quite severely. This has been done by the introduction of 'clusters', whereby Day and Res students work together and relax in geographically allocated 'hubs'. Through this, they saw how Day and Res students are not so different and they tolerate each other to a much greater degree. Each student must also belong to an organized student structure, and there are many more such structures than we at UP have, even though we are a much larger university. This yet again reiterates the need for more Day Houses and Residences at UP. They have also identified a leading international university (Stanford) to be their role model, something we at UP don't have to my knowledge but could certainly use.

Their Faculty Councils (Faculty Houses) also elect an ex-official member to the SRC – in our case this would mean a previous chair of a faculty houses gets elected by the other faculty house chairs to the position of SRC member Faculty Houses. This ensures you have someone who clearly know the issues regarding Faculty Councils and has a track record of great leadership within a Faculty (something the current SRC members needn't necessarily have). I am going to push for the introduction of a similar model at UP for both the Residence and Faculty House SRC positions.

Concerning the honorariums, they found our Residence honorariums quite excessive. This is a huge problem at UP, where a Chairperson of a Day or Faculty House gets around R 1 000 per year while a Prim at Res gets up to R 12 000*. In a university culture where we are striving towards student leadership on a voluntary basis, the abovementioned anomaly hinders this substantially. It also sends the wrong message with regards to where the importance of student leadership is placed – with the Residence (who account for about a quarter of the student populous), Day Students (the other 75%) or Faculty Houses (who account for 100 % of the student populous through its 9 faculties)*

At US SRC members are elected based on leadership merit – they don't hide under the name of a political party. I think this is a huge improvement over our current SRC election system.

University of the Western Cape

The Benchmarking to Western Cape was an enormous success; I would encourage all subsequent SRCs to keep this tradition strong as it creates stronger ties between SRCs through the country, and by collaboration, stronger SRCs.

*I will research these figures as current estimates are based on hearsay.

Simóne Engelbrecht - Residences

During the benchmarking trip I learnt the following regarding residences from the respective Universities.

University of Cape Town

Residences at UCT are split into first years (catering) and seniors (non catering) residences. They have house committees, take part in sport and have an orientation week for first years. Their traditions are limited, which is an issue that they are struggling with. Although their residences model differs from ours, I learnt that they also struggle with the issue of traditions being taken away. Their biggest issue was, RAG floats that was taken away because of a loss it incurred on RAG.

University of Stellenbosch

This University of Stellenbosch was by far the greater learning experience. Their Residences are based on the same model as ours, except they have no race quota's with regards to residence placements and HK elections. This works excellently because students are placed in residences according to academic merits, and HK's are elected based purely on merits and not on race. I believe that it is time to move past racial quotas and move to purely a 'merit' system.

We were also introduced to a new concept i.e a 'hub'. They have divided the University grounds into 5 sectors - each sector consists of male and female residences and day houses. This resolves the problem of the 'gap' between residence and day students. Studies show that residence students fair academically better than day students, the reason is that they have a place to study between classes, eat, sleep, social and receive support in the form of an academic mentors as well as emotional support. The 'hub' was the solution. It is a place for the specific sector's students to study, buy food, sleep, socialise and do assignments. Residence and day students have a chance here to interact on a academic and social level. UP has the same problem in regard to day students. Prof. Roelf Visser, Director of Residence Affairs and Accommodation has already looked into this concept and plans are being made to implement the concept at UP.

This provided me with a whole new mindset and I am ready to assist to implement the same concepts at UP.

University of the Western Cape

They have mixed residences who also participate in orientation week, sport, Olympics Day and also have house committees. They also have need for more residence accommodation. The SRC requested a new Residence to be built and succeeded, although the tariffs are extremely high, they have managed in lowering it as well.

This was an extremely fruitful learning experience and I thank the University for allowing us this opportunity.

Tiaan Koen - Projects

Objective

To gain experience and obtain valuable information from the SRC's of the various tertiary institutions we visited.

University of Cape Town (UCT)

Not all of their SRC members were available for us to talk to, because of academic duties. One thing that I picked up that were very interesting was the "Critical Thinking Culture" that they have. At UCT they have debates every week in their communal area (like our Piazza) where they tackle issues regarding their university and its management as well as other issues among them. I think this is very similar to the Debate Project that we want to launch and I learned a lot from them in regards to that.

Also the fact that they obtain funds for their "Bail Out fund" by hiring out their communal space is a great initiative.

We can start by charging the societies on campus a very small amount whenever they want to use the piazza, because it will all go for a good deed in helping financially needy students.

They have these “Sprint sessions” where the executive members have 15minute sessions with every SRC member to gain weekly information about what they are up to and also keep them in the loop on everyone’s activities. I think this is vital and should definitely be implemented in our structures. It will help a great deal in reducing the time we take in our weekly meetings, because we need to inform everyone of anything.

University of Stellenbosch (US)

One thing that stands out for me at this university is the fact that they are not politically orientated, which means they serve the student body as a whole and not specific groups. This is very important for me because we are all students, which implies that every student has the same rights as the next one and that all of these rights will be protected equally by the SRC.

This university also has a library for every faculty. The effect of this is that students always have a place to study, and space is not a problem. At UP main campus we only have two libraries that must address the needs of the students.

The way they allocate their residential spaces is also worth mentioning. The first 60% of all allocations are only based on academic results, thereafter they start to look at other factors such as traveling distance.

The fact that US have bridged the integration gap between residential students and the so called “Day Students” is also worth mentioning. They have these Clusters in which they randomly allocate different societies, residences and day houses and they then give a communal space for this Cluster, called a “Hub”. At the Hub the students of the different groups are “forced” to integrate because they share a common ground where they share meals, they can study together etc. This enables them to learn from one another and contributes to the wonderful spirit and camaraderie that you will find on the campus of US.

University of the Western Cape (UWC)

The university, in my opinion, that gave us the warmest welcome of all the institutions.

One thing that is worth mentioning is the fact that at UWC, 80% of their students are financially unable to pay for their studies, yet they have managed to bridge this gap and provide for a lot of needy students in the area they function in. Granted that they receive a big subsidiary from the State, but they allocate these funds very well. In terms of their technology they are a few steps ahead of us. They have Wi-fi hotspots in all their libraries, the communal area and also in their residences.

This enables them to create a culture of academic excellence because students can do extensive research from almost anywhere on campus. Also their library hours are from 07hr30 to 12h00, everyday of the week.

The only thing that bothered me from this university is the fact they are not an inclusive SRC. The whole SRC derives from one political group, so one tends to wonder how they treat the minority groups and societies on campus. Another thing that I liked is the fact that you are excluded from going to a residence if you live within a radius of 60km from the university. This enables students that are situated far from the university to obtain housing on campus.

Summary

We really learned a lot from all the universities we visited, and to put everything down in writing would be impossible. This benchmarking trip enabled us to see from other perspectives and view points, and this will really help us in accomplishing our duty in serving the students of the University of Pretoria. We want to thank UP Management for the funds they granted us, Doctor Jorissen for accompanying us and lastly to Camille Pienaar who arranged a great trip.

Jozua Loots - Technology Development & Sponsorships

Technology Portfolio

None of the visited universities have this portfolio, but Stellenbosch has appointed a manager to deal with Technology Development. He was not present at the benchmarking visit. I got his contact details, made initial contact, and still waiting for a response. (I.t.o. structure, the Stellenbosch SR has the power to appoint 'managers' for portfolio areas where no suitable candidate is present in the elected council.) Some of UWC's claims with regards to technology development and internet structures, turned out to be false or misleading, on further investigation. At UCT, the person who deals with tech issues was also not available, and I am also waiting for a response.

Bursary/Bailout/Study Aid Funds

All three visited universities have funds like this, but the UWC fund is not actually in operation yet. UCT's fund is focused solely on financial exclusion, and aids student with outstanding fees. Money for the fund is generated by their SRC through letting a public space, and advertising.

The Stellenbosch fund is less defined, and is used at the discretion of the council, as the need

arises.

Elections

All the other universities seem to give much more time to the elections than UP. Both UCT and US run their elections over 7-12 days. The UCT elections are fully electronic and plug into their equivalent of ClickUP. US has both an electronic and paper part to the election, for convenience. I was not able to find out yet how the electronic system is run, especially for transparency. Having both more time, and electronic means both have a major impact on voter turnout. It is something that I believe UP should most definitely look into because of our cumbersome paper-based system, and extremely low voter turnout. Even if we remain with paper ballots, I suggest that the voter role should be done electronically (where possible). This would not only enable anyone to vote at any polling station, but also speed up the largest bottleneck of the existing voting process.

Cluster Initiative

I found the US cluster/hub initiative to be very inspiring, but I am sure the day/faculty house and res portfolios will report back on that.

UWC criticism

I was especially disappointed with the benchmarking visit to UWC. While they presented a front of being organised (and provided a large amount of paperwork), the actual content was totally lacking. Almost everything they reported on had to do with university structures rather than SRC structures and initiatives (with the exception of their SRC governance structures and the 'go to class' campaign.) We spent a lot of time there listening to how the university does things, without specific relevance to student governance.

The time allowed for questioning was almost entirely abandoned too, and the campus tour covered a great deal of things that any university going student would know already from his or her own campus. I am sad to say this, but that time should have rather been spent in dialogue to learn more about each other. I have also gone on to do some more research about the institution, and found many of the claims and statistics that were given to us on the day to be misleading, or even downright false. This is rather alarming. I would conclude that the trip to UWC, other than establishing a relationship with them, was not time well spent.

I have found the following three sections to be severely lacking at UP, where both UCT and US have much better structures in place.

Strategy Formulation

While our team building camp was good for teambuilding, and discussion a vision, it did not fulfill the role of negotiating how individual portfolios and projects can be aligned to such a vision. Both UCT and US spend much more time over strategy formulation. They both spend a week or more of intense work to make sure they get the strategy part done, while our POA approach is a bit lacking in this front. They also have more support for this from within the SRC. This is covered in the next section.

Executive Roles

The UCT executive is structured differently, with more people carrying the administrative burden. At all three institutions, the role of the vice-president is better defined. It ranges from Portfolio Management to Discipline. I believe that UP should look into defining the role of the vice-president further. Similarly with the SG.

Communication

This is where I am most worried about the UP SRC. There is a great lack of formal (or at least expected) communication channels. This was also evident on the trip itself. I felt that the executive should have taken a more decisive role in making sure things go smoothly, but this problem goes further in the day-to-day work of the SRC. UCT has a promising system that would ensure that any member of the executive would know what is going on in all the portfolios of their committee. I think the UP SRC should work on a more detailed communications structure internally.

Rhetoric Summary

I thought it would be an interesting exercise to summarise the rhetoric used by each institution. It is an interesting tool in identifying an approach, or even vision (without looking at a formalised statement.) I applied the same exercise to our own rhetoric and got the following results:

UP: Transformation, Student Life
 UCT: Debate, Academic Exclusion
 US: Complexity, Interaction, Community, Context
 UWC: Struggle Credentials, Politics

Because we had quite a limited time at each institution, and they had short notice to get members to be present, I believe that much more valuable feedback and correspondence with these institutions will occur after the time of writing this report

Thobekani Malatula - Culture & Language

Language

University of Cape Town

The University of Cape Town uses English as the only language of tuition. Afrikaans and IsiXhosa are used as the second languages of communications. All three languages are displayed on the university's logo and used in some building names, notice boards and sign boards. The campus newspaper and the magazine (sax appeal) published by the university are all published in English only.

University of Western Cape

In conducting its business, the University of Western Cape only uses English as its language of communication. English is also the only language of tuition in this institution. Afrikaans and IsiXhosa are adopted as the second languages of communication.

University of Stellenbosch

The University of Stellenbosch prides itself for being an Afrikaans institution in a diverse country. Afrikaans is therefore a dominant language in this institution. Afrikaans and English are the only two languages of tuition. IsiXhosa is used as a third language of communication. This is very similar the University of Pretoria's use of English and Afrikaans as languages of tuitions and Sepedi as the third language of communication.

SRC meetings and Student Parliament sittings are conducted in both English and Afrikaans. During such meetings, electronic translators are used to translate between the two languages. The student newspaper (Die Matie) is published in both English and Afrikaans with most of the content being written in Afrikaans. The campus radio station which is also a community radio station for the residents of Stellenbosch broadcast in both Afrikaans and English equally.

Culture

University of Cape Town

The SRC of the University of Cape Town does not have a portfolio for culture. There is an independent body that deals with student culture. This body is responsible for organising cultural events for the students of the university and it is not linked in any way to the SRC.

University of Western Cape

The University of the Western Cape has portfolio for culture. The SRC member for culture also heads the student culture committee which is regarded as a sub-committee to the SRC. This committee deals with matters that have to do with student culture and organises all cultural events of the university.

University of Stellenbosch

The University of Stellenbosch SRC has no portfolio for culture. The university does however have a Student Culture Committee (similar to Stuku) which deals with all student culture matters.

Mpumbe Mbongo - Study Finance

The Benchmarking Project was a great learning experience. It opened up communication lines between the SRC of various institutions and the SRC of the University of Pretoria. The trip created a valuable communication medium in which we could discuss the issues that affect the students at all institutions including our own. Often enough, the issues that were discussed were similar which was not surprising since at the end of the day we are all students in search of a basic tertiary education. As the SRC for Study Finance I was informed about the numerous methods that are implemented to deal with financial needy students - very enlightening.

University of Cape Town

What I found to be very useful was the "15 minute Sprint" session that they had. It keeps everyone updated as to what is happening in the different portfolios and enables everyone to be able to ask questions if they need clarification on any issues without having to nag anyone. Furthermore, this exercise builds the team spirit within the group and keeps the positive energy that seems to be lacking in our own SRC.

Although, there wasn't a specific portfolio for Study Finance, the Treasurer was willing to inform me about the "Bail-Out Fund" that they had.

It is implemented to square up fees that are lagging from the previous year, it does not provide for textbooks or the like. The Fund is goal specific and quite restricted. Since their SRC budget is limited it follows that the amount that can go towards the Fund is also limited. However, they overcome this impediment by hiring out their equivalent of the "Piazza". The SRC of Tuks should look into this as well, as this would increase our budget and enable us to help more students than we are already at present.

University of Stellenbosch

The facilities at this university are breath-taking. It confirms that student access to information is a priority at the university and there were no lines at the computer centre, one can then assume that there is a sufficient amount of computers for all students. Furthermore, all the faculties have their own libraries which permits all students to work efficiently as access to information is freely assessable.

I was a tad bit concerned about the racial quota at the institution. Not so much the quota but the lack of transformation at the university. Frankly, I feel as though my question was not answered honestly. It was evaded. However, I understand how touchy this topic can become.

Overall, I was only impressed by the facilities at the institution.

University of the Western Cape

It was mentioned that financial aid was the largest concern of the students there. Approximately 80% of their students are on financial aid, i.e. NFSAS. They aspire to have a "Bail-Out Fund" however since their funds are limited they will have to rely on sponsorships.

It was refreshing to see that the students were their main concern. They addressed issues of financial exclusion, financial aid and academic excellence. Furthermore, they had initiatives in place to address these issues like the Skills Exchange Programme – a gift that keeps on giving, the Writing Centre and Counselling for students that are readmitted after being excluded.

Moreover, in terms of residence placement only students that live more than 60km away from campus are given res placement. It will ensure that only the more needy students are placed over and above the others who live close enough to campus. Something I think our university should look into.

I truly had the best time at this institution. Their SRC was very welcoming and very open to each and every one of us.

Conclusion

I also noted that transport whether access to it or parking was a major concern for all the various institutions. It would be great if this problem could be tackled collectively. Over and above, this was a great project. A lot of learning was done and hopefully the relationships created are not broken.

Thank you to everyone who made this endeavour a huge success!

Atlegang Mogale - Marketing (Tukkie Pride)

University of the Western Cape

At this institution, there was no specific portfolio that dealt with Marketing extensively. They do, however, have a portfolio that deals with Media and Communication. One thing that was relative to my portfolio was a thing they call "BIC MAC"! Unfortunately I could not get hold of the relevant person. They also have Jameson Square which is their student centre and the students take a lot of pride in it.

University of Stellenbosch

In all honesty, there was not MUCH to learn from them. One thing I took away was a thing they call "Maties Week" where the university comes together and has fun activities each day. It instills a sense of pride amongst the students and if we could also have a Tukkie Pride Week (and not a day), it will be great (maybe in future years to come). They had no specific portfolio related to Marketing.

University of the Western Cape

It was fun to visit this institution. There was also no specific portfolio specifically related to Marketing. The one thing I took away from this institution was a day they have to welcome the first year students who are not from that area so that they can learn more about the province and the institution. It is a day where they tour the university and Cape Town, play games and enjoy fun activities. This also instills a sense of pride in the students as they learn more about the place they will complete their studies at. This should definitely be implemented at Tukkies (especially for the first year students). This is different from Orientation Week and it also does not exclude first year students who do not stay in residences.

Chris Pappas - Academic Affairs & Honorary Colours

The benchmarking trip to the Western Cape saw the University of Pretoria Student Representative Council visit three Universities in the Western Cape. They were: The University of Cape Town and the Western Cape as well as the University of Stellenbosch. What follows is a report back regarding what was learnt about the respective Universities' SRC involvement in academic affairs.

University of Cape Town (UCT)

Academic Sub-councils

The UCT SRC has established a culture where the academic sub-councils play an important part in the SRC academic portfolio. Faculty, residence, day houses and class representatives are included and consulted more frequently so as to insure as much participation from as many students as possible.

I am to start a culture where the SRC for academic affairs meets regularly with the various sub-councils at the University of Pretoria.

Post graduate split

UCT has seen it fit to split the academics portfolio into two portfolios. One member deals with post graduate students while the other with undergraduate students. This has been done in order to cater for the different needs of the respective groups.

My aim is to establish a post graduate working committee that will be consulted when post graduate issues arise.

Exclusions

UCT has realised that students who are readmitted after facing exclusion still struggle academically. There is a readmissions support structure in place that is aimed at supporting students who have faced exclusion so that they do not face exclusion again.

I am currently working on a proposal for a University of Pretoria Readmissions Support Structure (RSS) that will assist students that have faced exclusion academically.

Second Orientation Week

The UCT SRC has helped to push the idea of a second orientation week for first year students. The aim of this is to ensure that students are coping academically and emotionally with the University Environment.

My aim is to suggest a second orientation week to the University in order to try and reduce the number of students who fail or drop out. I would like to be able to isolate weaker students before it is too late to help them.

Academic Development Program

UCT has an academic development program that they use to assist students who are performing poorly academically.

I have already proposed an Exclusions campaign which includes assisting students who are performing poorly before exams.

Early warning system (red flag)

UCT is in the final phases of implementing an early warning system that alerts the University to students who are performing poorly academically. The aim is to use the system to recognise students who need academic assistance and then to provide that assistance before the student fails.

The Department of Education Innovation has a similar system that has been developed over the years. My aim is to work hand in hand with them to ensure that the system is implemented.

Extended academic program

The extended academic program is a program that uses certain criteria (race, results and school of matriculation) to place students in academic support programs that help to develop weakness that students may have. The idea is that, over time, certain groups have shown tendencies to perform poorly. These groups can be defined by race, school of matriculation or by entrance exam results.

These groups are then made to attend classes that will help to improve their academic skills so that they have less chance of failing.

University of Stellenbosch (US)

The University of Stellenbosch did not teach me much. Personally I felt that the goals of the SRC and the institution are not the same as the University of Pretoria. The US also faces different challenges to the University of Pretoria.

University of the Western Cape (UWC)

Library

UWC has a library that is operational from 8:00 until 00:00 Monday to Friday. They justify this by saying that a University is an academic institution and the library plays an important part in research. The SRC has plans to propose that the library be open 24hrs a day. My aim is to extend library hours until at least 00:00 Mondays to Fridays.

Computer Laboratories

UWC has 24hr computer labs that students can access. This is complemented by a policy of free internet for all students.

My aim is to work with Technology Development to extend the computer access hours as much as possible and to inquire about the possibility of free internet on campus.

Go to class campaign

Like the University of Pretoria UWC has a problem with class attendance. They have tried to encourage students to go to class by inviting guest lecturers to try and promote class attendance.

I have recently presented at a Symposium for class attendance. The hope is that some of the things that I mentioned will lead to policies that will encourage students to attend class.

Library week

The objective of this campaign is to encourage students to utilise and respect the library and computer labs. It is a collaborative effort between the SRC and library management.

I have organised a meeting with Library management to try and see where the SRC can be involved in the existing library week program.

Peer mentoring Programme

The objective of the mentoring programme is to provide academic support and mentoring to all first year students. Their programme is run in collaboration with their Student Support Services.

As part of my exclusions campaign I would like to experiment with a peer mentoring system that will pair students. One student will be requiring assistance and the other will volunteer to provide assistance.

Academic Support

UWC will be introducing the Student Tracking System in 2013. It is an early detection system that helps to identify students who perform poorly academically. Students identified as poor performers can then be offered assistance to try and improve their marks.

The Department of Education Innovation has a similar system that has been developed over the years. My aim is to work hand in hand with them to ensure that the system is implemented. The driving force on the SRC's side would be to try and assist students before they face exclusion.

Institutional Culture

The UWC SRC has a goal to try and promote an institutional culture and attitude that strives towards academic excellence.

My aim is to create a debate forum where students can argue why their studies come second and how students would encourage each other to move beyond this notion.

Camille Pienaar - Projects

University of Cape Town (UCT)

I would definitely say that we learn from UCT.

They have a big problem because students feel excluded. I believe that we have the same problem at Tuks. This is something should be addressed seriously - not only as a SRC but the University as a whole. UCT has a few programs in place to address this situation.

UCT has a programme where they invite non-students on Saturdays to attend programmes such as Leadership Development, Life Skills Training etc. This is a very good initiative because they do not only focus on the students that was privileged enough to be able to attend university but that they also extend a hand to those who cannot afford it or who are not able to attend university due to other reasons.

Their SRC have separate portfolios for Academics with regards to post-graduate students and one for undergraduate students. I believe this is a good thing. We do not always realise that the post-graduate students also have their problems and might be very difficult regarding time constraint to attend to these problems in the end.

UCT have a debate every Wednesday. The idea of this is to get the students to talk about issues that are not discussed on a regular basis. The topics are very controversial. They also raise fund for their "bail out fund" with these debates. This is a good initiative that the 2012 SRC wants to work on. I feel that we do not really have the freedom of speech and that this might help us to step out of our comfort zone. The topic of one of UCT's recent debates was the following: 'Is UCT racist?' According to them, they got a huge response. I went on Twitter and read some of the comments in this regard and it is indeed interesting to know what people think. I would also like to suggest that we have some internet groups for students comment on. In this way we will be able to know what the students on campus think.

With regard to Rag, I noticed that they have the same problems than we do. They have not had the Rag procession for two years now because according to them, it is not viable financially. If one considers the fact that Rag also brings students together and it is in some way a marketing project for the university, it is a good initiative to go on with. Yes, we get a lot of sponsors for the procession, but most of these people sponsor the Procession itself and not for the fact that it is for raising money. In the end the Procession does make money. The one thing that I liked about their Rag is that it raises money - they have a separate organisation (SHAWCO) who then go out in the community and use the money in the way needed.

Another initiative that I really liked of UCT is their “Green Initiative” and I strongly feel that we at Tukkie's can focus more on these green initiatives.

University of Stellenbosch

The thing that I really liked a lot about the University of Stellenbosch is that they have an open parliament. Any student can attend these parliament meetings. This is good because in this way no student can say that they were not represented at parliament meetings since you can attend yourself.

The University of Stellenbosch also has a very nice initiative for day and residence students which they call “clusters”. This really got my attention since it also focuses on the day students and each student is assigned to a cluster. Each cluster also has its own ‘get together’, office and there is also a room with beds for those students who need to sleep between and who cannot go home between classes to do so.

University of the Western Cape

This was definitely the university that I learned the most from

- One of their ideas I liked the most is where students need to book a session in the library if they want to use the computer. Students are limited to 3 hours computer use per day. In this way they ensure that when the students use the computer they do not just mess around but they really use it for the right purposes.
- They have a ‘go to class campaign’ because they noticed that a lot of the students rather sit in their student centre and play games than go to class. With this campaign they invite celebrities to come and speak in class and also hand out prizes in class to get the students to come to class.
- ***Peer Mentoring Programme*** – I would like to see this programme be introduced at our University. Every second and third year student either has a first/second year student to mentor. It happens a lot that there are students who are the first generation to come to university and they do not always have the support system at the university to deal with situations or problems they might face.
- Their lecturers are very involved with the students and when they see that a student failed their first test, they call that student in and try to help him/her. They try to figure out why it is that the student failed the test and also how they can assist the student to pass the next one.
- With regards to their residences, they work very hard to have fun and sport days to get the students to stay involved in the residence. Sports include all types of sports and are not just focused on small groups.

Nic Stead - Residences

Stellenbosch University

Accommodation as opposed to residence

Accommodation System

- They have lots of houses/flats with between 4 to 8 students (generally senior students as opposed to first year students). Each area has a theme (like sustainability etc that are generally got to do with promoting the interests of the university)
- Sometimes they have guest speakers amongst other things to keep things interesting.
- Placement is diverse to ensure that students are continuously learning and adapting to living with each other.

Quota's

HC as well as first year residence placement and SRC election.

- No real quota system is in place at all and it seems to be working very well.
- The University of Stellenbosch have a totally opposite approach to integration - Instead of starting from the top, they start from the bottom up.
- By allowing the views of the students to change naturally, animosity and resentment is not fostered as it is as the University of Pretoria by favouring or putting a person ahead on the waiting list based on race.
- They have a non-political SRC
- Each SRC member truly represents the needs of "the student" instead of "the white students" or "the black students".
- First years are placed purely on academic merit for the first 60% and thereafter intergration and diversity are looked at. (need more Indian people, or need more girls etc)

Food Services

- I have spoken to the SRC's who are linked to the organization of food services and will be in contact with them over the next few weeks with regard to the catering and food services they provide for the students f their university.
- They also have changed the organogram of student life into a pie system where the whole town is split into segments with one dining hall per segment. Although this couldn't be applied directly to UP, it sheds light on the problem we have of trying to involve the "day" students here by offering them a better food and service system, which would incorporate them into Tukkies Life.

- A HUB system could easily be done here where students are offered a social, recreational as well as academic hub to utilize in their plight towards student life.

University of Cape Town

- The residence system at this university is set up in a very different way to those of UP.
- They split their students up into two categories, namely junior and senior.
 - Junior residences offer a much more comprehensive residence accommodation where food is catered for. This is done in an effort to help the students settle as well as concentrate on their academics.
 - Senior residences are self catering and even involve flats as well as family flats where a student can live with his spouse and his own children.
- Traditions are very limited which is an issue they are trying to attend to as they feel that its become a much less involved lifestyle for the students who want to be more involved in university life.
- RAG has become a thing of the past for them which is an issue they look on with sadness as it is sorely missed by the students of UCT. They feel that although the system was running at a loss, a greater effort could have been made by the university to keep the tradition of RAG alive.

University of the Western Cape

The University of the Western Cape have interestingly been on a mission to increase the number of student who are able to be accommodated in residences at their university.

- The SRC have managed to get an extra residence built in the last time and through a series of strikes and petitions have managed to keep the price of residence low as it initially was grossly inflated.
- At UP strikes would not have been allowed nor would it necessarily have been effective however the foundation of this issue remains the same. Tuks should therefore make a concerted effort to try and increase the number of students involved in accommodation in a TuksVillage style.
- They rely heavily on public funding at their university and seem to see this as the best way to improve their university instead of funding it themselves.

In conclusion the benchmarking trip was a successful event in my view and I would like to thank everyone for making it a reality. We learned a lot about the governance of the respective universities we visited as well as about ourselves and the other members of our diverse SRC. I feel that this trip was very useful in making 2012 the “year of the student”

Simba Tavuyanago - International Students

Introduction

On the 19 April the 2012 SRC left for the Western Cape for an intensive 3 day benchmarking trip. The trip was as successful and insightful as can be. I for one gained a vast knowledge of how the visited universities handle their issues peculiar to my portfolio. I learnt of the similarities we have as universities across South Africa with regards to International Students and I also learnt the different ways we handle these problems and the different structures that are put into place to try and contain them.

University of Cape Town

At the University of Cape Town they do not have an International Students portfolio. However the Deputy President of External affairs takes on the responsibility of tackling all matters that have to do with International Students. There is an International office that is dedicated to helping International students with issues like admissions, registration, medical aid, and International student finances.

University of Stellenbosch

The University of Stellenbosch also does not have an International Students portfolio. The responsibility of the wellbeing of International students and their representation lies with a Post Graduate and International office. There is therefore no student representation for International students.

University of the Western Cape

Of the 3 Universities visited, UWC is the only one that has direct International Student representation in the SRC. They do not have the portfolio "International Students", however an International student who sits on all International student sub-committees is a member of the SRC and takes the responsibility of ensuring International students' wellbeing. They also have an international office dedicated to assisting students with issues such as admissions, fees arrangements, residential placement and registration.

International student issues and how they are tackled:

1. Admissions and Registration

University of Cape Town

UCT's International student population is about 2000 students. I realised that it is more difficult to enrol into the most competitive fields such as medicine and law for International students. The rationale is that if one has a medical or law school in their own country, they should attend there in order to allow more South Africans to access Higher and Tertiary education.

University of Stellenboschtellenbosch

There was no International student representative, therefore i could not get any information on the numbers of International students is, or what criteria they use when admitting students.

University of the Western Cape

UWC's International student population is about 2000 students as well. In terms of admissions, there is no quota as to what number should be International students or as to who should apply and who should not. International students are therefore free to enrol in any course on a first come first serve basis.

2. Residential Placement

University of Cape Town

There is no particular formula as to the residential placement system in terms of preferential treatment on the basis of being an International student or not. All students are therefore placed into Res based on academic merit and on a first come first serve basis.

University of Stellenbosch

The residential placement system at the University of Stellenbosch is somewhat segregatory. All the International students have their own residence where they are placed.

The rationale is that this will make them more comfortable as they stay together, in a “home away from home” as one SRC member put it, however I feel this is a gross injustice as the reason why international students come to South Africa is to learn from its culture as well as share their cultures, through interaction and integration into the South African system, which can only happen if the students are put in the same residences as South African students.

University of the Western Cape

There are no specific residences set aside for International Students. However, the fact that a student is International is a huge contributing factor as to whether they get a residential placement or not. The rationale behind this “preferential” treatment is that by the time they come to South Africa most if not all the International students are not familiar with the country, for them therefore to juggle registration issues, getting medical aid and looking for apartments is close to impossible. Therefore the aim is to try and help lessen their burden by affording them placement in Res.

3. Financial Assistance

University of Cape Town

The SRC has got an SRC Bailout Fund; this is to help students who face financial problems from fees, to lack of study material and everything in between. The fund is available to all UCT registered students, including International ones. There is therefore financial assistance when it comes to International students. There are also a lot of scholarships on offer for International students doing their post graduate studies, so as to help alleviate their financial strain.

University of Stellenbosch

There is no financial assistance available for International students. The argument is that by the time a student decides to come to Stellenbosch they already are aware of the financial implications and should adjust accordingly.

University of the Western Cape

There is no fund specifically set aside for International students for financial aid, however, there is provision that based on circumstances, the SRC will assist any student, be it a South African or International student with financial means. There is also a program in place where the SRC ensures that all the International students with refugee status are always registered, whether they have paid fees or not so as to avoid academic exclusion on financial basis.

Claudette Veldhuizen - External Campuses

University of Cape Town

SRC Offices: It is an important goal of mine to ensure that all external campuses have designated SRC offices where SRC members can be approached from. However, it was interesting to note that UCT found that students actually prefer to consult with the SRC via social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter

Extended Programmes: UCT has similar extended programmes such as the ones on Mamelodi Campus

24 Hour Library Hours: UCT is pushing towards 24 hour, round-the-clock library hours. This may be a good idea to implement not only at Hatfield Campus, but at all external campuses – even if just during exam periods

Student Psychological Services: UCT is rolling out a student psychological support system. UP external campuses need to have reliable student medical services incl. a consulting doctor and nurse, as well as a psychologist

Green Campus Parking Initiatives: UCT is aiming to make car-pooling more effective

University of Stellenbosch

Student Psychological Services: Four psychologists are employed by the university in order to serve the students. US is actually planning on increasing this to about ten psychologists. This once again highlights the need for reliable psychological services to play a role in student health services. Students pay R50 per consultation – the psychologists are employed by the university

Ex Officio Members of SRC: US sets aside 6 places on the SRC for previous prims and heads of societies etc. This may be a good idea to employ at UP, as this ensures that people who have experience with university structures are included on the SRC

Electronic SRC Voting: At US, the SRC is not voted via parliament, but rather by the students. However, what seemed like an excellent idea was the concept of electronic voting. This could be implemented for UP Student Parliament elections

External Campuses: The University of Stellenbosch has three external campuses – MILAC, Tygerberg and the Business Campus. It was mentioned that these external campuses endure the same hardships as the external campuses at UP. The complaints mentioned included a feeling of isolation, lack of good transport between external campuses and the main campus. The SRC admitted that they have not been able to come up with sustainable solutions to these problems

Wi-Fi: The whole University of Stellenbosch has Wi-Fi (even the town)!

Bicycle Lanes: The University of Stellenbosch is transforming its campus to be more bicycle-friendly. This is an excellent notion as it tackles many issues – it encourages a healthy lifestyle, sorts out transport problems and encourages a green campus approach

University of the Western Cape

Student Psychological Services: As part of an early-warning system to identify students who will most likely fail module/s without intervention, free psychological services are offered to these students. Perhaps UP should look into a similar approach to dealing with high first-year drop-out rates (approx. 25%)

Go-to-Class: UWC uses a campaign that encourages students to attend class. This includes inviting a celebrity to class and handing out prizes

Community Engagement With Matric and Grade 11 Learners: As part of a community outreach programme, students tutor Grade 11 and 12 learners. This is a good way to serve the community, as well as to gain prospective students

SRC Voting Powers: Like the UP SRC, UWC SRC members do not have voting powers in student parliament; parliament mandates the SRC (like UP)

Green Campus Initiative Launch

Parking: Minister of Higher Education, Nzimande, suggested that the cost of parking discs should be elevated in order to force students to car pool!