



EFFYC

UNIVERSITY OF THE WESTERN CAPE

**STUDENTS BEFORE SUITS
POWER TO THE MASSES**

2025 ELECTIONS MANIFESTO

A REVOLUTIONARY PLAN OF ACTION





EFFYC UWC
2025 ELECTIONS MANIFESTO



Foreword by the Chairperson, Fighter Solly Mdingi:

It is concerning and disappointing to observe the current state of student governance in the university, which has degenerated. The SRC, under the leadership of SASCO, has abdicated its duty of being the uncompromising voice of students. Instead of accountability, students are met with evasion. Instead of transparency, students are met with silence. Our questions concerning the reckless spending of SRC funds and the opaque management of the IkamvaLethu Fund have remained unanswered. As those whom the students entrusted with the stewardship of these resources run away from accountability, the Economic Freedom Fighters Youth Command seeks to provide a solution through this manifesto.

Where the SRC should be a site of activism and principled struggle, it has been reduced to a mere events management committee for the university administration. The SASCO-led SRC has chosen loyalty to management over loyalty to the students who elected them. In doing so, they have sabotaged genuine student activism, replacing it with neoliberal practices that weaken the collective power of students and entrench the very inequalities we are meant to fight against.

This manifesto is therefore not just a programme of action, but a tool for the masses to take back their power from pseudo student activists that neglected the students of the university when they needed them most. This manifesto is a programme of placing students before suits. It is a commitment to restore the SRC into its rightful being: a militant, activist-driven body that defends the interests of students without fear or favour. It is a call to reclaim the dignity of student governance, to demand accountability, and to ensure that every decision taken in this university is taken with the interests of students at heart.

The EFFYC presents this manifesto as a revolutionary plan of action for principled leadership, rooted in transparency, accountability, and unwavering dedication to the struggles for Free, Quality Education. It is a reminder that the SRC must never be an extension of management, but the uncompromising shield and spear of the student body!

Fighter Solly Mdingi
Branch Chairperson

19 September 2025



ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE EFFYC FROM THE 2023/24 SRC & CHC TERM OF OFFICE

The 2023/24 EFFSC-led SRC and CHC –

1. Ensured that all NSFAS students were cleared for registration at the beginning of 2024 academic year without delay, regardless of whether their 2024 funding status was confirmed or not; and ensured that all students with other forms of funding were cleared for registration without delay.
2. Tabled a recommendation to the Executive Management to clear all students with historic student debt, for the purpose of registration despite this being rejected by the Executive Management.
3. Vigorously fought for the extension of operating hours for the main Library during exam times, which has now shaped the current norm of the Library operating for extended hours during exam seasons, bringing us a step closer towards a 24 hour operating library.
4. Tirelessly fought and forced many faculties to be transparent in the admissions and internal/external transfer process at the beginning of the year, which saw hundreds of deserving students being admitted into the university, thus opening the doors of learning to all.
5. Tirelessly championed the interests of the thousands of applicants that approached the fighters at the beginning of the year, and ensuring that no academically deserving applicant was turned away by faculty staff.
6. Brought certainty and stability in the student governance space, through the approval and implementation of the Student Governance Constitution in August 2024, despite SASCO's initial rejection of the Student Governance Constitution.
7. Established active and vibrant Faculty Student Councils in all Faculties across the University, without undue interference by university management.
8. Successfully initiated the process for the review of the Student Disciplinary Rules which was meant to result in the amendment of the current rules to provide for an independent student disciplinary court that subscribes to the principles of natural justice, fairness and ubuntu, this will also result in the applicability of the law of evidence, and stripping the Proctor's Office of the powers that it uses arbitrarily to target student activists; sadly the SASCO-led SRC abandoned this project when they took office.



9. Always championed the interests of the LGBTQIA+ student community in the Institution in all policy discussions with University Management and other stakeholders.
10. Were always transparent and open, and always consulted the broader student community prior advancing any policy positions in University Committees.
11. Fought for International Students with asylum-seeking and refugee status to be prioritised in the financial clearance process at the beginning of 2024, this was done without delay at the beginning of the academic year.
12. Aggressively fundraised, by challenging university officials like the Vice Chancellor, DVCs and Deans to fund the Meal-a-Day Programme which ensured that no student wrote an exam on an empty stomach.
13. Fought hard against the use of middlemen service providers such as NORRACO at the beginning of the year, which saw NSFAS distributing allowances through the University.
14. Aggressively fought against the implementation of the NSFAS Private Accommodation Pilot Project at UWC, despite organisations like SASCO supporting the pilot project as they sang for their supper from the anti-black and anti-poor former ANC Government.
15. Ensured that all students that approached it and couldn't afford to pay ridiculous amounts to be cleared for the 2024 April Graduation, were financially cleared and Graduated.
16. Used its seat in the Senate Executive Committee to support all applications of students who needed to be allowed to complete a programme because they had all the necessary credits, and only fell-short on a prerequisite module. All such students' applications were approved through the intervention of the 2023/24 EFFSC-led SRC and graduated.
17. Fought tirelessly for transparency around the management of the IkamvaLethu Fund which is currently being gatekept by management and the SASCO-led SRC which received millions of rands into the fund claiming it will be used to clear student debt, while no report has ever been released on this by the SASCO-led SRC.
18. Successfully advocated for the acquisition and building of more residences, which has resulted in the strategic acquisition of land and buildings that increased the number of bedspaces.
19. Fought tirelessly for the refurbishment of old residences. This resulted in the adoption of a phased approach for refurbishments of all that will saw the



decommissioning of Cassinga Residence for refurbishments, with more of our old residences to follow.

20. Highlighted the plight of private accommodation students, which saw the establishment of new shuttle routes for private accommodation students in Bellville South and the revision of their shuttle schedule.
21. Established representative committees for Private Accommodation students so that their voices are better represented in the University.
22. Created a vibrant and exciting student experience through sport days, and a number of other fun recreational activities.
23. Hosted events aimed at sharpening the critical thinking of students through Panel Discussions and Public Lectures that saw prominent individuals in society such as Adv Busisiwe Mkhwebane, Adv Muzi Sikhakhane, Naledi Chirwa-Mpungose and Aisha Cassiem, further positioning the University to live up to the name of being the Intellectual home of the Left.
24. Hosted discussions centred around important topics such as the plight of the LGBTQIA+ student community, Women Empowerment, Student Mental Health as well as unconventional career paths.
25. Through the #SRCCares campaign championed the plight of female students by providing free sanitary towels at its offices, in the SDS food security programme, Meal-a-day and secured the introduction of the sanitary towel dispensing machines that were introduced this year. Read more about this by clicking the link: <https://www.uwc.ac.za/news-and-announcements/news/udubscares-university-of-the-western-cape-wellness-initiative-for-students>
26. Championed students' right to information by ensuring that there is now university-wide access to all University Policies applicable to students on the University Website, accessible via the following link: <https://www.uwc.ac.za/about/leadership/governance>
27. Established a comprehensive academic support framework for students residing in university accommodation. This initiative was designed to ensure that all students living in residences had equitable access to supplementary educational resources. By recognizing the unique challenges faced by students in these living environments, the 2023/24 EFFSC-LED CHC secured additional support mechanisms, thus promoting academic success and fostering a more inclusive learning atmosphere within the residences.
28. Played a pivotal role in engaging with the Living and Learning Department to secure tutors for a wide range of academic programs. Through strategic

negotiations and persistent advocacy, the 2023/24 EFFSC-LED CHC ensured that academic support was not only available but also comprehensive, catering to the diverse academic needs of the student body. This achievement was a direct response to the recognized gaps in academic assistance within residences, and it was successfully implemented, providing students with the academic tools necessary for their progression and retention.

29. Identified the critical importance of ensuring uninterrupted digital access in residence computer labs.
30. Championed the installation of backup generators. This initiative safeguarded Wi-Fi and internet access, even during periods of power outages, thus eliminating disruptions to academic pursuits; and therefore contributing significantly to the digital inclusivity and academic empowerment of residence students.
31. Succeeded in pushing for an increase in the number of computers within the computer lab areas at Unibell Residences.
32. Mounted a vigorous campaign for the acquisition of underutilized, vacant, and abandoned land for the construction of new student residences. This effort was driven by the urgent need to address the chronic shortage of student accommodation.
33. Advocated for the allocation of a dedicated budget for the maintenance of student residences.
34. Introduced and ensured transparency in residence placements and appeals.
35. Fought for the publication and communication of vacant rooms through the Residential Services portal.
36. Played an instrumental role in securing accommodation for students who had not applied for residence at the beginning of the academic year.
37. Worked tirelessly to ensure that students who arrived at the university without accommodation, were accommodated, and also provided for their daily catering needs while in temporary accommodation.
38. Initiated various co-curricular activities such as hiking and beach outings.
39. Engaged the Office for Student with Disabilities in the development of sports and co-curricular activities tailored for differently-abled students, this is finally becoming a reality today.



40. Advocated for the zero-billing and opening of the Unibell Residence gym facilities, ensuring that these resources were accessible to all students, this particular project has since been abandoned by the current SASCO-led SRC.
41. Secured food parcels for all students residing in UWC residences, with a particular focus on disadvantaged students who lacked financial support.
42. Ensured that the residences were maintained to a standard that promoted a safe and conducive living environment.
43. Successfully advocated for first-aid training to be provided to security personnel stationed in residences. This training ensured that in the event of an emergency, students could rely on competent and well-prepared individuals to provide the necessary assistance.
44. Led the charge for the provision of a student-friendly shuttle service. The shuttle's operating hours were adjusted to coincide with those of the library, ensuring that students could access transportation at times that aligned with their academic commitments.
45. Advocated for the installation of surveillance cameras in communal areas such as laundry rooms and kitchens, significantly improving the overall safety of students living in residences.
46. Fought for increased patrols in the areas surrounding HPR and Unibell Residences. These efforts resulted in stronger law enforcement presence by SAPS, ProEvents, and the City of Cape Town around Kwikbake and Gorvalla Residences, thereby enhancing security in these high-risk areas.
47. Successfully lobbied for the synchronization of shuttle services to off-campus residences such as Haasendal and Solaris, ensuring that these students enjoyed the same transportation options as those residing in HPR and Gorvalla.

FINANCE AND STUDENTS FUNDING:

The EFFYC-led SRC will rigorously fight against the irrational practice of depriving graduates their certificates due to historic student debt.

The EFFYC-led SRC will raise funds to expand the meal-a-day program.

The EFFYC-led SRC will rigorously fight against the irrational practice of withholding academic transcripts of students with unsettled current and historic debt.

The EFFYC-led SRC will engage in a rigorous process of securing funding for International students.

The EFFYC-led SRC will continue championing the fight against the unfair and inhumane practice by NSFAS of defunding students in the middle of the academic year.

The EFFYC-led SRC will advocate for the IkamvaLethu fund to be utilized in a more transparent manner and ensure that each allocation to the Fund ultimately serves the purpose of alleviating student debt.

The EFFYC-led SRC will aggressively fight against the Student Debt Management Policy provision that requires student with debt to pay 30% of such debt as well as sign payment arrangements at the beginning of the year before they are allowed to register or graduate.

STUDENT HEALTH & FOOD SECURITY

The EFFYC-led SRC will continue to advocate for a 24-hour operating campus clinic where students will not be required to pay for any of the health services offered.

The EFFYC-led SRC will end the classist practice of the university of differentiating between students with medical aid and students without, by sending students without medical aid to hospitals in dangerous communities like Delft without providing safety personal.

The EFFYC-led SRC will fight for free & easy access to sanitary towels by abolishing the practice of students being required to first acquire pad tokens, before being able to get sanitary towels.

The EFFYC-led SRC will pressure the Office of the DVC: Student Development and Support (SDS) to provide within the nutrition program food items that are sufficient for students to use over the period of a month.

The EFFYC-led SRC will intensify its fight for an increase in the human resource capacity of CSSS to accommodate more students and end long waiting periods before appointments, thus fighting the scourge of poor mental health amongst the student body.

The EFFYC-led SRC will fight for the introduction of a therapist for every academic department in the university to provide better access to mental health care services for students.

The EFFYC-led SRC will fight for the introduction of a program that will result in Social Work graduates of the university being employed to provide support to students in residences and private accommodation.

LAND & ACCOMODATION

The EFFYC-led SRC will force the University to utilize the vacant land owned by the university on and off-campus for the development of more residences, in order to reduce the shortfall of bedspaces in the university.

The EFFYC-led SRC will fight for the introduction of strict criteria to be introduced and applied in the accreditation of private accommodation facilities for students, including the introduction of a public blacklist for unsafe private accommodation facilities.

The EFFYC-led SRC will fight for the introduction of a standard student-centric lease agreement for use by private accommodation providers.

The EFFYC-led SRC will fight against private accommodation lease agreements that make it extremely difficult for students to cancel their lease agreements with their landlords.

The EFFYC-led SRC will fight continue to monitor and ensure that significant progress is made in the refurbishment of all UWC residences.

The EFFYC-led SRC will introduce oversight mechanisms aimed at ensuring that the plight of private accommodation students is never left unheard, or only heard towards SRC elections.

STUDENT TRANSPORT, SAFETY & SECURITY

The EFFYC-led SRC will advocate for an increased capacity in the current shuttle service for students in private accommodation facilities and students in off-



campus residences, so as to ensure more frequent shuttles during the day and night.

The EFFYC-led SRC will continue the fight for security-personnel and law enforcement visibility across all off-campus residences and private accommodation facilities.

The EFFYC-led SRC will continue its fight for security patrols in the areas surrounding the Unibell residence precinct and Hector Peterson Residence.

The EFFYC-led SRC will continue the fight to abolish the opportunist practice of students being required to use stickers in order to gain access to shuttles.

The EFFYC-led SRC will continue its practice of ensuring the safety and wellbeing of first time entry students, upon their arrival to the university by organizing transport services to commute them from bus stations and the airport.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

The EFFYC-led SRC will continue, ensuring the enrolment of deserving applicants and non-applicants into the university through the annual #SizofundaNgenkani Campaign.

The EFFYC-led SRC will continue its practice of ensuring the immediate financial clearance for all undergraduate and first time postgraduate students.

The EFFYC-led SRC will intensify the fight for a 24-hour operating Library.

The EFFYC-led SRC will fight for transparency in the marking of exam scripts by fighting for the distribution of students' exam scripts at the conclusion of the marking and moderation process.

The EFFYC-led SRC will fight for the abolishment of the exorbitant remarking fee that prevents students from disadvantaged backgrounds from being able to apply for a re-mark of their exam scripts.

The EFFYC-led SRC will ensure that SFRCs are capacitated and competent to deal with academic related concerns in their faculties, moving away from the anti-activist practice of SFRCs being student event organizers in their faculties.

The EFFYC-led SRC will advocate for the ResLife tutoring program to be more easily accessible for residence students.

The EFFYC-led SRC will fight for punitive action to be taken against lecturers that engage in biased marking practices.



The EFFYC-led SRC will fight for more resources to be provided to the Library for the purposes of procuring more textbooks in both physical and digital formats, and therefore ensure an increase in the period for the loaning of books.

The EFFYC-led SRC will introduce routine academic wellness campaigns to be carried out in each academic term, so as to assess the academic needs of students and provide the necessary support.

SPORTS AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.

The EFFYC-led SRC will together with the Sports Council host sport tournaments during each academic term, so as to promote the sporting talent of students.

The EFFYC-led SRC will intensify its fight for transparent and inclusive sporting code selection process, to ensure that interested students are not deprived of the opportunity to participate in university sports.

The EFFYC-led SRC will continue to provide support, promote and secure sponsorships for para-sports in the university.

The EFFYC-led SRC will fight for the maintenance and good upkeep of all university sport facilities.

The EFFYC-led SRC will fight for the provision of more physiotherapists for student athletes across all sporting codes.

The EFFYC-led SRC will ensure that Sports Council has adequate capacity to address student athlete queries and concerns in an activist driven manner.

