



UNIVERSITY OF <sup>TM</sup>  
KWAZULU-NATAL

INYUVESI  
YAKWAZULU-NATALI

**REPORT ON THE INSTITUTIONAL FORUM WORKSHOP HELD AT 09H00 ON  
WEDNESDAY, 21 MAY 2014, IN THE EXECUTIVE BOARDROOM, GOVAN MBEKI  
BUILDING, WESTVILLE CAMPUS**

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**PRESENT**

Dr S Reddy (IF Chair) and Health Sciences Representative)  
Mrs B Letsoalo (Council Representative)  
Prof A Matthews (CAES Academic Representative)  
Dr S Hansraj (CAES Academic Representative)  
Dr R Govinden (CAES Academic Representative (alternate))  
Dr G Mazibuko (Humanities Academic Representative)  
Mr C Thomas (Humanities Support Representative)  
Ms A Stephens (Humanities Support Representative (alternate))  
Ms C Musto (Union Representative)  
Mr S Mthethwa (Student Representative)

**APOLOGIES**

Mr C Baloyi (Registrar)  
Prof G Kamwendo (Senate Representative)  
Dr P Naidoo (Health Sciences)  
Dr N Mthiyane (Humanities Academic Representative)  
Dr S Masondo (Humanities Academic Representative (alternate))  
Dr F Ruffin (CLMS Academic Representative)  
Mr L Mofokeng (CLMS Academic Representative)  
Mrs M Bodasing (CAES Support Representative (alternate))  
Mrs D Stone (CLMS Support Representative)  
Mr S Maharaj (CLMS Support Representative (alternate))  
Mr T Singarum (Support Sector Representative)  
Dr N Gopal (Union Representative)

**1. OPENING AND INTRODUCTION**

The workshop was opened by Dr Reddy (IF Chair) who welcomed members, with a special welcome to Mr Kris Moodley, from the Durban University of Technology

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who would be facilitating the workshop. She expressed concern at the poor attendance, as one of the reasons for holding the workshop was to try to get IF members to attend meetings and create a better functioning forum, by explaining the role and function of IF members and the IF itself.

Dr Reddy went on to give a progress report on the decision taken at the meeting held on 25 March 2014 to improve the visibility of the IF. The aim of the exercise was to increase awareness of the existence of the Forum at the University, with a view to eliciting pertinent items for the agenda of the IF. It had been proposed that a webpage, logo, and “tagline” be developed with the assistance of Corporate Relations. Initial costs would be borne by Corporate Relations with the Registrar’s Office assisting with costs for flyers and posters for distribution to the University community.

She had met with Mr Siyanda Mahali from Corporate Relations who had completed the design of the logo and a “short strategy” for advertising on the University’s electronic media. The strategy included the designing of a social media site where the university community could raise issues of concern that could be taken up by IF. She would provide further reports as the matter progressed.

Dr Reddy also informed the Forum of the meeting between herself and the Chair of Council, who had welcomed further and greater interaction between Council and the Forum, as the main function of the Forum was to advise Council on matters affecting the University, as outlined in the Statute.

## 2. **BRIEF**

The brief of the workshop was to gain direction on the following matters:

- a) Role and function of the IF
- b) Role and function of IF representatives
- c) Increased visibility of the IF at UKZN
- d) How to develop an effective IF with “teeth”
- e) A way forward for the IF at UKZN

## 3. **PRESENTATION BY MR KRIS MOODLEY (DUT)**

Mr Moodley gave an informative and lively presentation on all of the above aspects, with a brief history of how the IF had gained ground and credibility at DUT after the merger process in 2002, where it had been instrumental in an advocacy and transformation role, and continued to be an effective body to this day.

During his presentation, the following points were made, amongst others:

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- f) The IF is a governance structure with a clear mandate entrenched in the Higher Education Act (HE Act) of 1997 and as such, is already possessed of “teeth”. It is designed to be an effective system of democratisation for the governance of higher education, as a system. and of individual institutions.
  - g) The function of the IF is guided by the HE Act which seeks to restructure and transform programmes and institutions to respond better to the human resource, economic and development needs of the republic.
  - h) The IF is envisaged to enhance harmony at higher education institutions and ensure the accountability of Council and Management.
  - i) It is further envisaged that the IF will be instrumental in fostering an institutional culture which promotes tolerance and respect for fundamental human rights and creates an appropriate environment for teaching, research and learning.
  - j) It is clearly designed as the custodian, monitor and guide of change and transformation at higher education institutions. However it was important to note that its power should be managed in a responsible manner to ensure success. Matters brought to Council should be thoroughly investigated and clearly articulated so that they could receive the attention they deserved.
  - k) One way to ensure the success of the IF was not to allow it to become used for “political” agendas of any kind as this would make the forum dysfunctional.
  - l) The role of IF members is to gather intelligence about matters affecting the institution and bring these to the attention of the Forum. It is important to note that not all matters need to be brought before Council for resolution, as there are institutional matters that can be resolved by other bodies.
  - m) The University Statute is clear about what matters can be brought to Council. However, the Forum should be guided by its own senses if there are matters outside of those mentioned in the Statute that require the attention of Council.
  - n) The IF will increase in visibility and credibility once it is seen to successfully take on and guide the resolution of issues affecting the institution.

#### **4. DISCUSSION**

During discussion the point was made that the UKZN Institutional Forum did not have a representative on Council, who would speak to IF matters. What the IF does have is two Council members who are appointed by Council to membership of the Institutional Forum. It was felt that this was not in the best interests of the Forum, and that there should be a member of the IF who was democratically elected by IF to represent their interests on Council.

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**5. RESOLUTION**

After discussion it was resolved to motivate to Council that a member of the IF be elected to represent IF interests at Council, as a first step towards increasing the visibility and credibility of the Forum amongst the University Community. Due to time constraints the discussion had to close at this stage.

**6. CLOSURE**

After discussion and resolution, the workshop ended at 13h00. On behalf of the Committee the Chair thanked Mr Moodley for his presentation and facilitation of the discussion, which the Forum had found extremely useful and informative.

**7. LITERATURE**

The following documents are attached as additional reading for this report:

- o) Addendum 1 – UKZN Institutional Forum Workshop 21 May 2014 – Powerpoint presentation by Mr Kris Moodley
- p) Addendum 2 - Higher Education Act 101 of 1997
- q) Addendum 3 - White Paper 3 – Executive Summary
- r) Addendum 4 - White Paper on Post School Education and Training
- s) Addendum 5 - Impact of legislative and institutional environments on Institutional Forums