

WALTER SISULU UNIVERSITY



Setting an Agenda for Transformation: Towards a developmental university of choice

PROGRAMME OF PROCEEDINGS

18 – 19 NOVEMBER 2009

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EAST LONDON

BUFFLO CITY

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

- i. The post 2009 election environment in South Africa presents space for the resuscitation of some of the transformation battles that have been lost in the first 15 years of democracy. The space that has been created through amongst others, the government medium term strategic framework and its programme of action requires organisations like WSU to position themselves strategically such that they are able to utilise this space to transform themselves, candidly advocate for radical transformation of higher education whilst at the same time seeking to contribute to the transformation of society. In other words WSU needs to be both inward and outward looking when engaging on the discourse of transformation. This is out of an appreciation that the university evolves and co-evolves with its environment. It is therefore imperative for WSU to critically take a look at the appreciative and obtaining context in its environment.
- ii. The release of the **Ministerial Committee report on Transformation, Social Cohesion and the Elimination of Discrimination in Public Higher Education Institutions** also presents an opportunity for a re-look and self-introspection by the higher education sector, and particularly institutions of higher learning on the progress they have made with respect to transformation.
- iii. The dawn of mergers of Higher Education institutions was an important milestone towards the restructuring and reconfiguration of the Higher Education landscape. In the processes of reconfiguration and refocusing and re-visioning, merged institutions were expected to embed transformation imperatives. The Indaba therefore offers an opportunity for WSU to reflect on this aspect.
- iv. The institutionalisation and embedding of Transformation is a strategic imperative and as such should be at the centre stage of the business of the university.
- v. A common approach and vision towards a transformed university is very critical to the success of the university.
- vi. An institutional conversation therefore about its transformation has the potential of re-energising everyone to roll up his/her sleeves towards the building of WSU as an **African Developmental University of Choice**.
- vii. The Institutional conversation will also empower WSU to be in a better position to engage in the on-going national discourse on Higher Education transformation. In this context the Indaba serves as an important platform for the WSU's preparation for the National Indaba on HE Transformation to be held early next year under the auspices of the Department of Higher Education and Training.

1.2. The Indaba Theme

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2. INDABA OBJECTIVES

- i. To define the meaning of transformation in the WSU context:
 - a. A historically disadvantaged institution.
 - b. A merger of three institutions with different cultures and orientations.
 - c. Integrating the three institutions into one.
- ii. To assess the state of transformation at WSU in relation to:
 - a. Gender
 - b. Race
 - c. Access for people with disabilities
 - d. Learning & Teaching transformation in line with the vision and mission
 - e. Institutional Culture
- iii. To develop a response to the Ministerial Committee report in preparation for the National Indaba to be held early in 2010 on Higher Education Transformation.
- iv. To develop a university transformation Agenda with clear indicators and deliverables e.g. Formulating a WSU Transformation Charter
- v. To review and align institutional arrangements towards institutionalisation and embedding transformation at the university.

3. THE NATURE AND FORM OF THE INDABA

- i. The Indaba will be a forum of all WSU Stakeholders who will assemble for two days with a view to engaging on how WSU can transform so that she can deliver on her compelling vision and mission. The nature of engagements therefore is expected to be robust, frank and constructive.
- ii. The Indaba should be viewed as an important forum to confront transformation issues that do not only affect WSU, but that affect the province and the nation as well.
- iii. The Indaba serves a consultative forum and as such recommendations emerging from the Indaba will be submitted to decision making structures of WSU for approval.
- iv. The Indaba is meant to focus squarely on the classical transformation issues and as such it is not intended and should not be equated to a normal strategic planning session. However, the recommendations of the Indaba are expected to help strengthen and complement the WSU Ten Year Strategic Plan as well as the general planning processes of WSU.

- v. In a nutshell, the Indaba outcomes will serve as a WSU specific programme of transformation that will serve as an integral part of the WSU Strategic Plan.

4. INDABA CREDENTIALS AND PARTICIPANTS

The Indaba Organising Committee (IOC) decided that the following structures be represented at the Indaba as full participants. The committee decided on this for purposes of ensuring that there is inclusive and participation from the diverse stakeholders of the university. The following structures have been invited to participate at the Indaba:

1. Executive Committee of Council
2. Institutional Forum
3. Executive Management
4. Senior Management Forum
5. Recognised Labour Unions
6. Institutional Disability Forum
7. Gender Forum
8. External Resource Persons
9. Institutional Student Representative Forum
10. Convocation

5. DOCUMENTATION OF PROCEEDINGS

The IOC has established a Resolutions Committee that will be responsible for the capturing and synthesis of deliberations of the Indaba into concrete implementable resolutions. The resolutions of the Indaba will then be translated into an implementation plan. The implementation plan will then be tabled to the various structures of the university up to Council for support and approval.

It is expected that the outcome of the Indaba will be translated into a Transformation Charter for WSU. The Charter will be implemented over a five year period with reviews taking place annually.

It is also expected that the proceedings of the Indaba will also be incorporated into the Annual Operating Plan of the university as well as into the Annual Operating Plans of Faculties and Units.

6. TIME TABLE OF PROCEEDINGS

DAY ONE 18 NOVEMBER 2009		
CHAIRPERSON: PROFESSOR SP SONGCA		
TIME	ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY
08:30 – 09:00	Opening and Welcoming Address	Prof MM Balintulo
09:00 – 09:30	Introductions, presentation of credentials, house rules and Indaba Objectives	Dr SM Matoti
09:30 – 10:00	Setting of the Scene	Dr S Fikeni
10:00 – 10: 45	A critical review of the Ministerial Committee report on Transformation, Social Cohesion and the Elimination of Discrimination in Public Higher Education Institutions: Implications for WSU	Prof M Nkondo
10:45 – 11:15	TEA BREAK	ALL
11:15 – 12:00	A comparative study on the role of higher education institutions in development: Implications for WSU	Dr N Cloete Prof P Pillay
12:00 – 12:30	Questions and comments on the presentations	Plenary
12:30 – 13:30	LUNCH BREAK	ALL
13:30 – 15:00	Stakeholder Perspectives on WSU Transformation	Stakeholders
13:30 – 13:40	Institutional Forum	Dr L Mbabane
13:40 – 13:50	Senate	Prof L Obi
13:50 – 14:00	Convocation	
14:00 – 14:10	Gender Forum	Dr D Gumbi
14:10 – 14:20	Institutional Disability Forum	Mr N Bojanyana

14: 20 – 14:30	Institutional Student Representative Council	Mr M Majeke
14:30 – 14:40	Nehawu	Mr D Landu
14:40 – 14:50	Ntesu	Mr M S Bovungana
14:50 – 15:00	Nutesa	Ms Zoleka Mbinda
15:00 – 15: 15	TEA BREAK	ALL
15:15 – 15:30	Outline of commissions	Chairperson
15:30 – 18:00	Commissions	All
18:00 – 18:30	Summary and conclusion of day one proceedings	Prof M Nkondo
19:30 – 21:30	SOCIAL EVENING	ALL
DAY TWO 19 NOVEMBER 2009		
CHAIRPERSON: Mr D NADISON		
08:30 – 10:30	Commission's Reports	Commissions
08:30 – 09:00	Commission No. 1: Learning and Teaching Transformation	
09:00 – 09:30	Commission No. 2: Institutional Culture and Identity	
09:30 – 10:00	Commission No. 3: Equity and Non-discrimination	
10:00 – 10:30	Commission No. 4: Resource Mobilisation	
10:30 – 11:00	Commission No. 5: Stakeholder Engagement and Mobilisation	
11:00 – 11:15	TEA BREAK	ALL
11:15 – 11:45	Summary of proceedings and resolutions	Prof M Nkondo
11:45 – 12: 15	Presentation of Indaba Declaration	Mr L Jack
12:15 – 12:45	Closing Remarks	Dr S Fikeni
12:45 – 13:00	Vote of thanks	Prof M Balintulo

13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH AND DEPARTURE	ALL
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