



Cape Higher Education Consortium

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Workshop on various issues concerning the relationship between FET Colleges and Higher Education

Wednesday 16 September 12h30 – 15h30

Programme

12h30 – 13h00	Light lunch	
13h00 – 13h10	Introductions	Nasima Badsha. Erica Gillard (facilitator)
13h10 – 14h10	The National picture. Scenarios for how to move forward	Rolf Stumpf
14h10 – 14h30	Identification of issues and trends, including capacity development and future of level 5 courses	Rolf Stumpf / Erica Gillard
14h30 – 15h00	Supply and demand study – educator capacity Student statistics	Joy Papier - FETI Danita Welgemoed - WCED
15h00 – 15h30	Way forward	Erica Gillard

A workshop on various issues concerning the relationship between FET Colleges and Higher Education was held at the Sports Science Institute on 16 September 2009. Participants from a broad range of stakeholders attended (a list of participants is attached). Presentations, which were circulated separately, were made by Rolf Stumpf, Joy Papier (FETI) and Danita Welgemoed (WCED).

The workshop provided a further opportunity to continue interaction and discussion.

There was agreement that it was important to expand provision for a wider range of education and training needs as the higher education system should not be seen as the only solution. Differentiation of the FET college sector could cater to a significantly larger audience eg. NCV programmes could be one of a range of long, short, formal, non-formal programmes offered to youth, adults, workers etc. In this context, FET Colleges, with their focus on vocational programmes, were crucial for the economic development of SA. FET College CEOs reported that they understood they had a broadened mandate, and were aware of the importance of avoiding academic drift. While recognising that some of the N4 -6 programmes had shortcomings and required updating, many had been accepted by their respective industries and had met labour market needs. In this context, and without anything to replace them, there was concern about the phasing out of N4 - 6 programmes. Many FET Colleges had had substantial enrolments in these programmes and their phasing out left a large gap.

Participants agreed further that, while only a small proportion of students was likely to continue to higher education, it was important that this was possible so that FET qualifications were not dead ends. A study on articulation possibilities into higher education for students with NCV qualifications in engineering had been completed and handed to HESA. HESA had also proposed minimum entry requirements for students with NCV into higher education.

The WCED had organised working groups from among Western Cape higher education academics (though CPUT predominated) on all the other study areas. Once work was completed, all CHEC institutions would be invited to send representatives to a meeting when findings would be discussed. This would allow each university to determine entry criteria to particular qualifications for students with a NCV.

The Department of Basic Education has gazetted a Framework of FET college lecturer qualifications. FETI had organised a workshop to develop comment on this by 30th September. There are initiatives to find ways to respond to this more specifically and FETI is part of a wider process, which involves universities in the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, KZN and Free State, to start developing initial qualifications for College lecturers, particularly the VEOP (Vocational Educator Orientation Programme) which will be obligatory for all lecturers.

Follow up action

Joy Papier of FETI agreed to keep CHEC updated as to progress in developing initial qualifications for FET College lecturers in order for CHEC institutions to discuss whether they wished to make more specific responses.

The group requested CHEC to request the Department of Basic Education to consider delaying the phasing out of N4-6 programmes until the QCTO is established and operational and until there can be more discussion on introducing appropriate programmes to replace these.

Participants

Present: Nasima Badsha: CHEC
Leon Beech: Northlink College
Jan Botha: US
Judy Favish: UCT
Zelda Groener: UWC
Erica Gillard: CHEC
Natheem Hendricks: UWC
Carl Herman: UCT
Iegsaan Isaacs: UCT
Geonella Jacobsz: Motheo FET College
Cassie Kruger: Falsebay College
Martin Mulcahy: FETI
Seamus Needham: FETI
Luvuyo Ngubelanga: South Cape College
Joy Papier: FETI
Ebrahim Peters: College of CT
Larry Pokpas: UWC
Elsie Potgieter: College of CT

Max Price: UCT
Anthony Staak: CPUT
Rolf Stumpf: Presenter
Andre van der Bijl: CPUT
Danita Welgemoed: WCED
Rob Woodward: CPUT
Nan Yeld: UCT
Vincent Morta: UWC
Cordiel Christo: Boland College
Timothy McBride: UWC