

A Council Perspective

Submission to Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Higher Education and Training
By the Council of Stellenbosch University

Presented by Vice-Chair: Prof PW van der Walt
Cape Town, 1 September 2015

Stellenbosch University Council

- University fortunate to have Council ...
 - With knowledgeable, capable members
 - University's best interests at heart
 - Quality inputs from ministerial appointees
 - Meetings well attended
 - Discussions in depth; diversity of opinions
 - Decisions nearly always by consensus
- However ...
 - Council not diverse enough
 - Changing Statute for five ministerial appointees
 - Changes to Council Constitution to increase diversity

Functioning of Council

- Council functions effectively
 - Good relationships with Management
- Communication with Management sound
 - Management keeps Council well-informed
- Relationship of genuine trust
- Management enjoys Council's full support
- Council holds Management accountable

Functioning of University

- SU functions well:
 - International rankings: one of top three in SA and Africa
 - In top 1,5% of universities in world
 - Research output per staff unit highest in SA past three years
 - Diversity of students and staff steadily increasing
 - Impact on society increasing
- Amongst the highest pass rates for students in SA
- Produces extraordinary large % of SA's black post-graduates
- Dynamic and well-maintained campus

Strategy

- Strategic direction in *Institutional Intent and Strategy* document
- Through on-going transformation, SU strives for:
 - Academic excellence
 - Relevant research output
 - Increased impact
- By, inter alia, the following actions:
 - Creating a welcoming environment
 - Improving access
 - Increasing diversity
 - Ensuring sustainability

Viewpoints

- Council united on importance of transformation at SU and the direction it has to take
- Council unanimously rejects and condemns:
 - All forms of racism
 - All forms of discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, creed or gender
- Council fully supports Management's transformation actions
- Council fully supports SU's Language Policy, and considers implementation and review a Management responsibility