ENROLLMENT OF STUDENTS AT UNISA.

STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVE: Compiled by NSRC.

Shatadi Phoshoko, Secretary General.

BACKGROUND

- Unisa has been responsive to the development of the changing times. Carrying its vision; Enabling scholarship through superior academic innovation and research to contribute to the rapidly evolving discipline of communication in Africa and beyond. Through this, students can enrol for learning programmes in a wide spectrum of disciplines.

- African university cantered in the service of humanity.

- Accommodates over 71% of Africans and just less than 30 % of non- Africans.

- Over 60% are female and close to 40% are male.

- Growing attraction of younger generation between ages 18-25.

- Drop out rate is more females.

- Yearly protests over admission.

- improvement of traditional student services, such as recruitment, admissions, financial aid, registration, orientation, academic support, and retention.

ENROLLMENT PRINCIPLES: NSRC

- Enrolment efforts must be cantered by quality.

- Must promote academic programme and academic support.

- Must go hand in hand with strong research and data (what happens to rejected students, demographics and social status of accepted students,etc).

- Check Markets for all degrees (need for such skills, economic and social contribution of such courses.)

- Check Competitor's Programs,

- Address Students' Needs and Regularly engage students.

- Systems planning.

CORE CHALLENGES AND FLAWS IN UNISA ENROLLMENT PLAN

General:

- Shifting from its humanitarian principle.
- Highest funded by DHET but minimal support to students
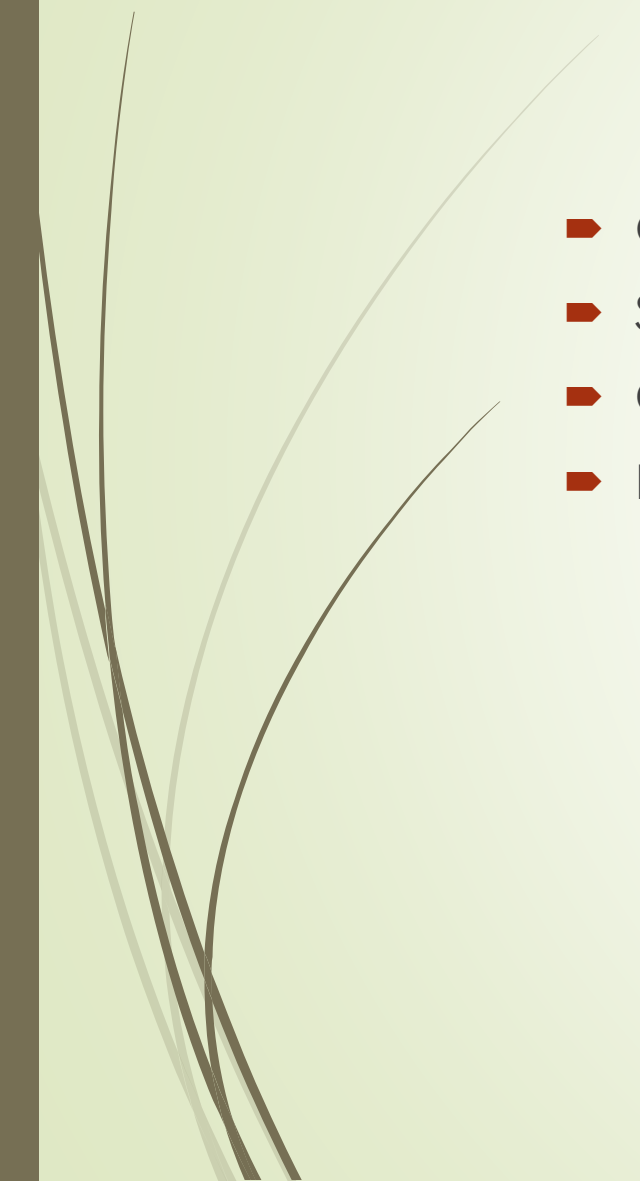- HC unclear admission police (more HCs admitted with minimal space.)

FUNDING:

- Lack of support for self funded students.
- Staffing for financial aid offices.

- Nsfas & UNISA poor coordination (Student central model).

ADMISSION:

- Registration challenges.
- System incapacity.
- Staff incapacity.
- Centralized resources in Sunnyside campus.
- Orientation too basic.

SCRAP HIGHER CERTIFICATE!

- Qualification standards in higher education (HEQSF).
- Students loose money and time.
- Causes mental health challenges.
- Replace HC with extended course programme.

PROPOSALS:

- And Realistic enrolment goals.
- Develop annual marketing and 3 year strategic enrolment and revenue plan.
- Practical: Staff proportionality to students (1 staff is equal to 100 students per day).
- Encourage enrolment into colleges with few students but scarce skills (advertise, offer high school bursary,…).
- Support NSRC trust fund for things such as registration fees.
- Capacitate ICT.
- Staff and ICT capacity.
- Introduce Extended course programme, scrap HC.
- Improve marketing methodology (attract even best scholars).
- Design digital first strategy.
- Profile social and economic background of students.
- Promote equity.
- Improve Curriculum (within the powers of UNISA).