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Creating and Sustaining a Research Culture

The Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology (FEIT) hosted a research workshop entitled "CREATING AND SUSTAINING CONDUCTIVE RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT" on 20 August 2014. The workshop was honoured by a high profile keynote speaker: Prof Adam Habib, the Vice-Chancellor & Principal of the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits). Prof. Habib is an academic, an activist, an administrator, and a renowned political media commentator and columnist with more than 30 years of academic leadership experience. He was instrumental in transforming the University of Johannesburg into a well-known research institution and currently has a target of transforming Wits into the leading university in Africa in the coming five years.

Prof Habib delivered a very illustrative presentation on how an institution can be successful in research. He mentioned that to be a great university one needs to take account of the national context by acting locally while thinking globally. Moreover, one must have a diverse and cosmopolitan environment with emphasis on applying own context and not copying others.

Prof. Habib emphasized that South African universities need to compete as a system with other systems rather than competing with one another on the expense of developing a synergy in the national system of higher education institutions. However, to build a research culture a university needs to develop three building blocks: recruit good academics; provide these academics with adequate funds to carry out research; and create an enabling environment. The first can be achieved through working out an effective budgeting system with the aim of creating a sustainable academic pipeline that ensures entry of new generation academics to continue the work of retiring academics. *Continues...*



Prof Adam Habib, Vice-Chancellor & Principal at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits)



From Left: Prof Henk de Jager, Deputy Vice Chancellor: Academic, CUT; Prof Alfred Ngowi (Dean) and Dr Mohamed Mostafa (Research Manager) both from The Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology, CUT; and Prof Adam Habib Vice Chancellor and Principal, WITS.

Other presentations were also delivered. Dr Mohamed Mostafa, the Faculty Research Manager, introduced a comparison between yesterday, today and tomorrow in terms of CUT research. Prof A Swart, Associate Professor at the Electrical Engineering Department, shared his own experience in terms of incentives derived from research while Dr Willie du Preez, Senior Researcher at the Mechanical Engineering Department, shared his industry research experience. Dr Dillip Das, Senior Lecturer at the Civil Engineering Department, introduced his international experience with research to the audience before Ms Zenobia Louw, Research Officer at the Research and Development Unit, discussed the possible opportunities of research funding.

The event was concluded by Prof Alfred Ngowi, the Faculty Dean, who thanked Prof. Habib for sharing his experience with CUT. He also thanked the other presenters for providing their insight on research activities at CUT. He emphasised the need for speeding up the research culture change at CUT.

Compiled by Dr Mohamed Mostafa

How to write for publication and funding

On Friday, 22 August, the R & D Unit hosted its third R & D workshop for staff and students. The theme of the workshop was "How to write for publication and funding." According to our records close to 80 people attended this workshop. A brief scan of the feedback questionnaires indicated an overwhelming appreciation for the presentations and the organization of the workshop.

From the programme it was evident that the colleagues addressed the main issues challenging scientific writing and the submission of grant proposals. I am very pleased that our team of presenters, Profs. Dennis Dzansi and Ryk Lues, Dr Mike Mhlolo, Ms Edith Sempe, Mr Sello Borephe and Mr Lerato Segalo, shared guidelines and good practices that will assure success! May I also thank Ms Sandra Nel for organizing this event for us. Many thanks, Colleagues!

Apart from the hard copy work book issued to each participant, the presentations will soon be available on the internet under R & I's headings.

Compiled by Prof Laetus OK Lategan



From left: Mr Lerato Segalo, Research Intern: Unit for Research and Development, interacting with some of the workshop participants



From Left: Prof Ryk Lues, Research Manager: Faculty of Health and Environmental Sciences; Dr Mike Mhlolo, Research Manager: Faculty of Humanities; Ms Edith Sempe, Research Officer: Unit for Research and Development; Prof Dennis Dzansi, Associate Professor: Faculty of Management Sciences and Prof Laetus OK Lategan: Dean Research and Innovation



Students from the Faculty of Health and Environmental Sciences

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Newsletter



Word from the Dean

A sign of progressive research development is how a research community can discuss, assess and comment on its own processes. I am very pleased with the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology for taking initiative to discuss strategies to grow its research participation and outputs. From these discussions we can learn how important it is that institution / management, researchers and postgraduate students all contribute towards an active and vibrant research community. Here we also note the importance of research engagement.

Another important development is the research workshops that grow in popularity. On Friday, 22 August, the R & D Unit hosted its third R & D workshop for staff and students. The theme of the workshop was "How to write for publication and funding." According to our records close to 80 people attended this workshop.

Thanks to the commitment of our researchers and students we are growing our research participation and outputs!

Prof Laetus OK Lategan