SU Council accepts motions on transformation and Language Policy

The Stellenbosch University Council held its meeting scheduled for Monday 28 September 2015 at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences on the Tygerberg campus. A tour of the campus was arranged for the members of Council at the invitation of the Facilities Management division. In 2010 Council allocated R250 million to the faculty for essential maintenance and construction, as well as the improvement of infrastructure. A significant part the work has been completed and Council members were invited to view the upgraded lecture halls and residence for students, *Huis Ubuntu House*. Another residence will be completed early in 2016.

The communication from Council also includes key matters from the reports of the Rector and Vice-Rector: Learning and Teaching. Read more about Council decisions and these reports.

**APPOINTMENTS**

Council approved the recommendation by its Human Resources Committee that the appointment process for two vice-rectors be initiated. A new position, Vice-Rector: Strategic Initiatives and Internationalisation, was approved by Council. This position, as well as that of the Vice-Rector: Social Impact, Transformation and Personnel (previously the Vice-Rector: Community Interaction and Personnel), currently held by Prof Nico Koopman in an acting capacity, will be advertised shortly.

Council took note of the report by Human Resources Committee on the appointment of Ms P Mmope as Senior Director: Corporate Marketing and Dr B Schreiber as the Senior Director: Student Affairs. The committee also reported that title of the Vice-Rector: Community Interaction and Personnel has been changed to Vice-Rector: Social Impact, Transformation and Personnel with immediate effect. The title of the Vice-Rector: Research and Innovation has been changed to the Vice-Rector: Research, Innovation and Postgraduate Studies.

Council also took note of the report by the Joint Appointments Committee that Prof Jimmy Volmink has been appointed for a second term of office as the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Science for the period 1 January 2016 until 31 December 2020.

**MOTIONS**

The Stellenbosch University Council accepted various motions:

Language Policy

Council supported the recommendation by the Rector’s Management team that the word ‘safeguard’ in the context of Afrikaans as academic language should be removed from the introduction to the Language Policy, and from the rest of the policy. Qualifying words such as ‘judicious’ and ‘where feasible’ related to the development of isiXhosa as academic language will also be removed from the introduction. The Rector’s Management Team accepted these recommendations by the task teams that considered the proposals contained in the memoranda submitted to management by various student bodies at the end of the first semester. As determined by the University’s Statute, the proposed changes to the Language Policy will be tabled at the Council meeting in November 2015 after consultation with the Institutional Forum and with the concurrence of Senate.

Support for Rector and Management Team

The Stellenbosch University Council accepted a motion of support for the Rector and his Management Team for the way in which they have, and are managing the various complex debates and contestations around the transformation of the University; and call on the University Management to continue on the path they have set, further advance open and critical debate, respond to transformation challenges, and pro-actively create conditions for various forms of student and staff activism to realise the values, principles and rights contained in the Constitution.

Commitment to transformation

Council affirmed that it was resolute in its support for the *Institutional Intent and Strategy* document (approved in April 2013) which was formulated under the late Prof Russel Botman’s leadership, and the *Institutional Plan*, accepted by Council in December 2014. These documents demonstrate the commitment of Council and Management to the University’s transformation journey.

Council took note of the actions and statements by Mr Piet le Roux (member of Council) about universities in South Africa and the Minister of Higher Education and Training, and that these actions and statements are anti-transformational.

While Council acknowledges Mr Le Roux’s constitutional right to have his own opinions, it completely distances itself from his public statements which are contrary to Council’s official position. Furthermore, Council approves of the University Management’s handling of the transformation process and reconfirms its full support of and confidence in Management.

Committee to investigate actions and pronouncements

Council mandated a committee of five members to investigate the actions and pronouncements as reported of Council member Piet le Roux in context of legislation and the Code of Conduct for members of Council. The Committee has been instructed to settle the process with Mr Le Roux, further to obtain legal advice and guidance from senior counsel, and to report its findings and recommendations to Council three weeks prior to the Council meeting of 30 November 2015.

**CHANGES TO THE STATUTE**

Council approved the recommended changes to the University’s Statute, which includes the proposal that the number of Council members appointed by the Minister of Higher Education and Training be increased from three to five. Members of Council were also reminded of the Code of Conduct approved on 30 September 2013.

Council took note of the draft skills and diversity matrix proposed by the Rector’s Management Team, and requested Council members to provide further input.

**MATTERS FROM SENATE**

On the recommendation of Senate Council approved the changes to the academic programme offering outlined in the reports by the various faculty boards. Council also approved Senate’s recommendation related to the conferring of honorary degrees to the following persons:

Judge Edwin Cameron (Doctor of Laws); Prof Daniel Kahneman (Doctor of Philosophy); Mr Pali Jobo Lehohla (Doctor of Commerce); Juge Kate O’Regan (Doctor of Laws); Prof Adam Small (Doctor of Arts); Prof Solomon Johannes Terreblance (Doctor of Commerce); and Dr Jakob Johannes van Zyl (Doctor of Engineering).

Council also noted Senate’s motion on transformation that was accepted without opposing votes at its meeting on 28 August 2015. Senate expressed concern about the evidence of racism, racial incidents and sexual harassment on campus; acknowledged the complexity of the connection between the SU Language Policy and transformation and expressed support for Management’s transformation discussions and initiatives that have been announced and implemented.

 **FINANCIAL REPORT**

At the recommendation of its Executive Committee, Council approved the University’s biannual financial report.

**RECTOR’S REPORT TO COUNCIL**

This section contains key topics included in the Rector’s customary Report to Council which are of interest to the campus community.

## Transformation

Because transformation is so important, it has been included at top management level in the Centre of Responsibility (CoR) of Prof Nico Koopman, who took over from Prof Mohammad Karaan as acting Vice‑Rector: Community Interaction and Personnel in June 2015.

This portfolio was analysed and discussed (by the Rector’s Management Team [RMT], and in the Executive Managers’ Meeting [EMM], the dean’s forum and the applicable Senate Committee) and then restructured. Senate also received a report on this matter. The portfolio is now called “Social Impact, Transformation and Personnel” (SITP), as approved by the Human Resources Committee (HRC) of Council on 2 September 2015. A discussion on the first‑mentioned aspect follows later in this report, the second aspect is dealt with below, while information about the last‑mentioned aspect is provided elsewhere in this report.

At SU, we hold a systemic and not a reductionist view of transformation. Transformation not only has to do with our inclusivity concerning aspects such as race, gender, disabilities, sexual orientation and religious beliefs, but also with renewal of the curriculum and the way we approach research. Transformation gives us energy and takes us forward and upward.

On the one hand, transformation refers to the positive impact of the University on society in a broader context. A transforming SU contributes to the renewal and remodelling of society in complying with the central values of the Bill of Rights in the Constitution of South Africa – particularly human dignity, with the building blocks of healing reconciliation, embracing justice, freedom from all forms of oppression and discrimination, and freedom to create a society in which people, animals and nature can flourish. **This is transformation *by* SU**.

On the other hand, transformation relates to the renewal and remodelling of SU itself with a view to complying with the spirit and principles of our [IIS](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/Strategic_docs/IP%20english%20website.pdf) – excellence and diversity, being future focused and innovative, inclusivity and ownership, justice and empathy. **This is transformation *of* SU**.

Both external and internal transformation involve all three of our core functions as University: learning and teaching, research and innovation, as well as social impact and personnel. We want our students and staff members to develop a transformation competency or skill. With a view to this, a compulsory first-year module and compulsory courses for staff are currently being developed. Transformation also affects our co‑curricular functions and professional support services, which in turn have an impact on our institutional culture or our collective character and communal personality.

Transformation forms an integral part of all University environments, but in order to facilitate its cross‑cutting nature optimally, it also is crucial that we put particular, deliberate institutional focus on transformation. Prof Koopman’s Centre of Responsitibility (CoR) accordingly provides for the establishment of a Transformation Office to support the transformation process in every University environment. The role of this Office will be to inform and co-ordinate, stimulate and motivate, facilitate and consult, and mediate and monitor.

However, as this requires fundamental knowledge, a Chair in Transformation and Reconciliation also will be established, as well as a Chair in Transformation and Social Justice. A Transformation Committee will provide advice on the broad transformation processes on campus. And in terms of its statutory responsibility with regard to transformation, our (4) Institutional Forum also will have a role in this process.

Our [IIS](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/Strategic_docs/IP%20afrikaans%20website.pdf) is the comprehensive transformation framework, policy and paradigm of SU, but (5) an Implementation Plan is currently being developed to direct and co-ordinate all transformation initiatives of SU and to make provision for the monitoring and assessment of our progress.

## Discussion with Portfolio Committee

On 1 September 2015, SU made a submission to the Portfolio Committee for Higher Education and Training in Parliament. The Committee had requested the special meeting to discuss transformation and the language issue at the University in the aftermath of the *Luister* video, in which students shared their experiences of racism and discrimination.

SU was represented by Management (myself; Prof Nico Koopman, VR:SITP; Prof Arnold Schoonwinkel, Vice-Rector: Learning and Teaching; and Dr Jerome Slamat, Executive Manager: Rectorate), Council (Prof PW van der Walt, Deputy Chairperson), the Institutional Forum (Mr Le Roux Burrows, Chairperson) and the Students’ Representative Council (Mr Stefan Laing, outgoing Chairperson; and Mr Axolile Qina, incoming Chairperson).

All our structures unequivocally condemned racism. And in its submission, Council expressed its overwhelming support for the importance of transformation, and Management’s handling of the matter.

In our [submission](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/management/wim-de-villiers/Documents/MANAGEMENT%20Portfolio%20Committee%20FINAL.pdf), Management pointed out that we do act decisively against discrimination, and that there are many initiatives at the University that promote inclusivity and integration ([click here for my speaking points](http://bit.ly/1EzodVs)). We admitted that there were stumbling blocks in the implementation of the Language Policy and Language Plan that were adopted by Council in November 2014, particularly with regard to bilingual classes and real-time interpreting, but pointed out that task teams are searching for solutions,

The Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Bonginkosi Nzimande, said that SU was a highly respected university the world over, but that transformation should be accelerated so that SU’s status is not damaged. He confirmed the validity of the framework of multilingualism in terms of the Ministry’s [2002 Language Policy for Higher Education](http://www.dhet.gov.za/HED%20Policies/Language%20Policy%20for%20Higher%20Education.pdf), and said the State would make funds available for its implementation by universities.

Members of the Portfolio Committee – a multiparty structure – criticised the insufficient diversity of our staff and student bodies. We pointed out that there had been progress, but admitted that not enough had been done yet.

The Chairperson of the Committee, Ms Yvonne Phosa, thanked SU for our participation and expressed the hope that obstacles will be overcome. It was a constructive session, with valuable insights that will help us address important issues.

## Open discussion on campus

Directly after our meeting with the Portfolio Committee, we again extended an [invitation](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=2872) to Open Stellenbosch (OS) to engage in discussions with Management. Since earlier this year, this movement, which consists mainly of students, has been demanding, among others, that all classes should also be offered fully in English. Our experience is that it does not work to enter into discussion with a group of protesters on complex issues during a public gathering, but they do not want to appoint representatives for roundtable discussions. We nevertheless are continuing our efforts to have proper discussions.

***[On 29 September 2015, the day after the Council meeting, members of the Stellenbosch University Management met with the Open Stellenbosch collective in the Arts and Social Sciences building. On the agenda were the following points: #Luister video; the Language Policy and the dissolution of Council. An agreement was reached that OS and the University management would meet biweekly.]***

Since taking office, I have continuously encouraged critical dialogue as part of our transformation process. Many meaningful discussions have already taken place, among others with the SRC, student societies and our Listen, Learn and Live (LLL) student communities.

The annual election season in student structures has been concluded, and the SRC was elected with the highest voter turnout the past eight years (17,71%). The SRC and other established structures throughout the University – including the Academic Affairs Council, house committees, the Societies Council and the Student Parliament – represent student interests. The new SRC chairperson, [Mr Axolile Qina](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=2860), said the first and most important objective for his term of office was “to unite the campus”.

The Stellenbosch Student Leaders Conference (SU Leads) was presented successfully by the University’s Frederik Van Zyl Slabbert Institute for Student Leadership Development from 6-8 September 2015. It is the seventh time that this training opportunity – one of the largest of its sort in the country – has taken place. It was attended by approximately 1 300 student leaders in elected structures and other student bodies across the University. The conference was marked by critical discussions about transformation on campus, and was constructively participatory throughout.

During the first semester, various student groups submitted proposals to the Management on the implementation of SU’s Language Policy. Staff and students are kept informed continuously of how the process unfolds. Task teams were constituted to give priority attention to bottlenecks. The outcome of the process will take the form of formal feedback.

## Protest

While the meeting of the Portfolio Committee took place in Cape Town, OS held a protest march on the Stellenbosch Campus. The previous day, the Municipality had turned down a request for approval of the march because the organisers had not fulfilled legal requirements. SU did not receive any request.

An estimated 250 students arrived in Stellenbosch in three buses from other tertiary institutions in the Western Cape and joined students on the Rooiplein. The protesters walked to Admin B and handed a memorandum to Mr Pieter Kloppers, Director of Student Structures and Communities. The memorandum later was handed to Management.

We recognise the right of students to embark on protest action, provided this takes place according to the rules and guidelines that apply to the entire campus community; no academic or administrative activities are disrupted in any way; such action does not infringe on the right of other students to continue their studies; and it does not involve any risks. At the end of June 2015, a class and a careers exhibition were disrupted, and an administration building was occupied. This is unacceptable. We view disruptive behaviour in a serious light. An investigation was launched in terms of the University’s disciplinary code with a view to possible steps.

In a recent letter, the Minister appealed to all universities to protect people and property against violence. We follow a multifaceted strategy in this regard. SU’s established rules for safe and orderly gatherings are published in the University Calendar Part 1 and are impressed upon students in House Committee training sessions. It also contains application procedures in terms of legislation. All our internal processes are currently being simplified by a task team.

## Support for SU mission

What I find very encouraging is that conversations are taking place despite the current tension – or maybe it is because of this that Maties are coming to the fore and doing their bit. I have thanked alumni, partners and friends of the University for their support – not blind or uncritical loyalty, but support for the University’s mission to create a society of “social justice and equal opportunities for all”.

I also would like to thank Council for its support during the meeting with the Portfolio Committee and Senate, which expressed its support “for the manner in which the SU Management has handled the transformation discussions thus far, and also for the new initiatives that have already been announced and implemented” in a [motion](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=2861) at its last meeting.

We must avoid the danger of polarisation. AfriForum Youth has announced a “national prevention plan to protect students on campuses”, and the “Afrikaans Alumni Association” used the SU logo without permission. We have notified the member of this grouping’s “Founding Committee” who is listed as “convenor” – Mr Piet le Roux – that our logo must be removed immediately. Mr le Roux is a member of the SU Council, nominated by the Convocation.

## Policy on discrimination

The task team working on SU’s proposed policy on discrimination is making good progress. National and international best practice serve as the basis for a draft that is currently being developed for comment. It is anticipated that this will be an overarching policy, with which related policies such as those on sexual harassment, employment equity, etc. shall be integrated. The task team aims to submit a draft to the RMT by the end of the year.

## Sexual harassment

Stellenbosch University has taken note of the concerns of students who took part in a march against sexual harassment and assault on 26 August 2015. It is appreciated that students highlight these important issues. However, it is unfortunate that those participating in the march denied the chairpersons (in respect of student matters and the other for staff matters, both of whom were present) of the Sexual Harassment Advisory Committee the opportunity to address the gathering. A memorandum was received and a commitment made to respond to the issues raised.

SU confirms that no sexual harassment and assault is tolerated and that the University takes a firm stance in such matters. In the past year, the Sexual Harassment Advisory Committee dealt with 13 cases of sexual harassment that were reported to it, all of which were addressed according to the merits of the particular matter, and resulted in appropriate disciplinary actions.

The Sexual Harassment Advisory Committee considers all reported cases of sexual misconduct, and provides counselling and support to students who seek assistance following such incidents. The Centre for Student Counselling and Development (CSCD) assists in this regard, while the 24-hour crisis line 082 557 0880 is also available for urgent assistance with any serious matter. Rape is a serious form of sexual misconduct and as such is investigated in terms of the University’s Student Disciplinary Code and the Sexual Harassment Policy (for staff members) respectively. It is also a serious criminal offence falling under the jurisdiction of the South African Police Service and the judiciary. The University provides its full cooperation in any criminal investigation.

A task team is currently reviewing the existing policy on sexual harassment. At a later stage, this policy is expected to be integrated with SU’s envisaged overarching policy on discrimination (see 2.2). The existing protocol for the handling of incidents was recently revised.

## Staff corps

Stellenbosch University will be spending some R70 million (R68.6m) over the next three years on diversifying its staff corps. This amount, voted from the University’s Strategic Fund, will supplement the normal staff budget.

In 2014, the total percentage of permanent black, coloured and Indian (BCI) SU employees came to 43.2%, as compared to 37.6% in 2008. Although this indicates an upward trend, SU will have to accelerate its pace in order to meet its target of 53% by 2020. The issue of senior academic appointments remains a particular challenge, with only 17% of our staff members in this category representing the BCI group. Other universities experience a similar problem, as there is a national shortage of senior black academics.

The RMT (*RBS*) accordingly decided to vote a significant amount of money towards greater staff diversity. The amount is available for immediate use and will be applied in two ways over the next three years. On the one hand, senior professionals – particularly academics, but also support staff – will be recruited and appointed from the designated groups. On the other hand, current SU employees from the designated groups will be afforded developmental opportunities with a view to upward career advancement, e.g. from lecturer to senior lecturer to professor.

As part of follow-up planning, SU mentorship projects focus on accelerated knowledge transfer to young academic staff. This includes taking part in the New Generation of Academics Programme (nGAP) of the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET). The allocated strategic funds will be utilised to support these initiatives.

This urgency also relates to gender. SU’s percentage of female permanent staff improved from 51.9% in 2008 to 55.9% in 2014, but the target is 60% by 2020. Equal representation of women at executive management and senior academic levels has not been reached yet. Management currently is paying attention to the recommendations of the Task Team on the Career Advancement of Women, as contained in the report that was approved by Council. It is envisaged that final decisions will be taken at the final Council meeting of the year.

An employment equity committee is being constituted in accordance with the requirements of applicable legislation. It will include representatives of all the faculties and the different CoRs. This committee will regularly report to the Appointments Committee of Senate, as well as to the RMT.

## Student corps

Based on our official census data for June, as requested by our Admissions Office and provided by our Division for Institutional Research and Planning, SU’s enrolment has for the first time exceeded the 30 000 mark. The total number of students now stands at 30 150, an increase of 2.6% since 2014. Women represent 52.86% of our students.

Undergraduate enrolments increased by 5%, while postgraduate enrolments dropped by 0.7%. The latter now stands at 10 051, which represents 33.73% of our student corps.

The diversification of SU’s student community continues. From 2008 to 2015 our BCI student numbers increased from 31.4% to 37.8%. Our target for 2020 is an intake of 50% BCI newcomer first year students. Currently, 33.6% of our undergraduate students and 47.2% of our postgraduate students come from the BCI groups.

## SU improves in the rankings

Stellenbosch University (SU)’s reputation as one of the best universities in the world has gone op by more than just a few notches. Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) has included SU in the 301-400 category of its World University Rankings 2015/2016, released on 15 September. SU has moved up an astonishing 88 places from 390 in 2014, to 302 in 2015. As recently as 2011, SU still ranked in the 441-450 category. In the latest QS ranking, SU has improved to 2nd in South Africa, with the University of Cape Town still 1st and the University of the Witwatersrand now 3rd.

QS evaluated 891 out of 3 539 universities on six performance indicators: academic reputation, employer reputation, faculty/student ratio, research citations per paper, proportion of international faculty, and proportion of international students.

Since 2013, SU has been the leading research-productive university in South Africa as measured by the Department of Higher Education and Training in terms of our weighted research output per capita, which is now above 3 units. This measure refers not only to publications produced per permanently employed academic, but also to a university’s output of research master's and PhD graduates.

Research and innovation are primary strategies of the University. Our knowledge base and recent research successes have laid the foundation for the University’s latest accomplishment. SU strives to be locally relevant, yet globally competitive. The fact that we have improved our standing shows that we are moving in the right direction.

A note of caution – despite their popularity and pervasiveness, rankings do have caveats and limitations. They consider only a select group of universities, they tend to be subjective and limited in scope, they have a bias towards the natural sciences and medicine, and they favour universities from English-language nations. That is according to Prof Johan Mouton, Director of the new Centre of Excellence in Scientometrics and Science, Technology and Innovation Policy of the DST-NRF, housed in SU’s Centre for Research on Evaluation, Science and Technology (CREST).

However, rankings also have benefits. They can inform a student’s choice of institution; promote a culture of transparency; strengthen competition among and often bring about policy change in universities, which strive to improve their standing in league tables; and they provide simple and easily readable information and are therefore used as a basis for funding allocations to universities, as well as for developing national or regional higher education policies.

## USB again top management school

The University of Stellenbosch Business School (USB) has achieved top position in the survey by the Professional Management Review (PMR.africa) of accredited management schools in South Africa that offer MBA and MBL degrees – for the fifth year in a row. For this the USB received the 2015 Diamond Arrow Award.

The respondents (employees) assess MBA alumni and students in the workplace on the basis of 19 characteristics. The USB received a mark of 8.16 (an improvement on last year’s 8.00) out of a possible 10. This means that the constant renewal of its MBA programme by the USB and the impact of its MBA graduates on South African organisations are being noticed. Our Business School is the only one in Africa that can boast a European (EQUIS) accreditation for a five-year period. The USB also is the first business school attached to an African university to which three of the most important accreditations have been awarded – EQUIS, AACSB and AMBA.

## New research chairs

A memorandum of understanding between SU and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) provides a framework for launching strategic and project-specific agreements, and for collaborating in selected research areas. Within this framework, SU and the CSIR introduced the following two new research chairs on 20 July 2015:

The Faculty of Science hosts the chair in Quantum, Optical and Atomic Physics. **Dr Hermann Uys**, a physicist at the CSIR and SU, holds this research chair. The chair will allow researchers to focus on the use of single trapped atomic ions for studying quantum phenomena, and on developing laboratory technologies for this field of research that can be commercialised.

The chair in Artificial Intelligence is accommodated in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. The holder of the chair, **Prof Arina Britz**, is the representative of the CSIR Centre for Artificial Intelligence Research at SU. The chair will double the research capacity of the Department of Information Science and allow for the allocation of bursaries to undergraduate and postgraduate students.

## Women in five new SARChI research chairs

SU boasts five new research chairs, which were among those awarded on 2 September 2015 to 42 outstanding women researchers across the country as part of the South African Research Chair Initiative (SARChI).

Our new holders of SARChI research chairs are **Dr Reinette (Oonsie) Biggs** of the University’s new Centre for Complex Systems in Transition (Chair in Social-Ecological Systems and Resilience); **Prof Cherryl Walker** of the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology (Chair in Sociology of Land, Environment and Sustainable Development); **Prof Amanda Gouws** of the Department of Political Science (Chair in Gender Politics); **Prof Anneke Hesseling**, director of the paediatric tuberculosis research programme at the Desmond Tutu TB Centre and the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health (Chair in Paediatric Tuberculosis); and **Prof Kathy Myburgh**, distinguished professor in the Department of Physiology (Chair in Integrative Skeletal Muscle Physiology, Biology and Biotechnology).

This brings the number of research chairs at SU to 33. Of these, 24 are SARChI chairs that are funded by the national Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the National Research Foundation (NRF), while nine chairs are financed from other sources.

## National awards for emerging researchers

Two outstanding emerging researchers at SU were honoured by the NRF on 27 August 2015 with awards for research excellence. **Dr Nuraan Davids**, a lecturer in the Department of Education Policy Studies, and **Mr Ethan Newman**, a doctoral student in the Department of Botany and Zoology, received the Research Excellence Award for Female Early Career/Emerging Researchers and the Research Excellence Award for Male Next Generation Researchers respectively.

These prizes are awarded for excellent research performance and form part of the strategy to develop emerging researchers.

## Agricultural engineer honoured

**Prof Umezuruike Linus Opara**, distinguished professor in the Department of Horticultural Science, was recognised with the IMPRESSA Award of RUFORUM, a network of 46 universities in Africa that are involved in the development of capacity in the agricultural sector, on 29 August 2015. He is regarded as an exceptional researcher and agricultural engineer who is helping develop skills in Africa.

He currently holds the DST-NRF SARChI Chair in Postharvest Technology at SU. His team works on aspects such as the handling and storage of fruit and vegetables such as table grapes, apples and pomegranates, the preservation of fish and the use of cassava flour to make bread. Forty postgraduate students and four postdoctoral fellows from 15 countries in Africa have already benefited from his mentorship and guidance at SU.

## Clusters facilitate student success

Since student success is a function of the student experience both inside and outside the classroom, the VR:LT introduced an initiative in 2015 to bring these aspects closer together through the concept of clusters. An Academic Principal was assigned to each cluster ([which consists of a number of residences and PSO wards grouped together](http://www0.sun.ac.za/ssg/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=83&Itemid=529&lang=en)) as an academic role model, as indicated below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CLUSTER** | **ACADEMIC PRINCIPAL** | **FACULTY** |
| amaMaties | Prof Danie Brink | AgriSciences |
| Rubix | Prof Willie Perold | Engineering |
| Tygerberg | Prof Jimmy Volmink | Medicine and Health Sciences |
| Validus | Prof Michael Samways | AgriSciences |
| VicMeyr | Prof Maureen Robinson | Education |
| Victoria | Prof Doug Rawlings | Sciences |
| Wimbledon | Prof Bill Nasson | Arts and Social Sciences |

This system resembles the Oxbridge collegiate model. The position of an Academic Principal is a ceremonial one and the aim is to encourage scholastic ethos and intellectual discourse in our clusters in a structured way.

In addition, a draft plan was introduced to faculties to encourage them, as far as possible, to organise tutorial groups in the context of these clusters so that academic work could continue outside the classroom in a small-group format. The aim is also to have well-established wellness and mentorship programmes in student communities that overlap with the tutorship programmes of the faculties.

## ICT in Learning and Teaching

In May 2014, Council voted R218 million to extend the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the sphere of learning and teaching at SU. This project is shaping up well this year and highlights include the University’s first MOOC (or Massive Open Online Course), is scheduled for 2016; the presentation of lectures via the internet using SUNStream; extending our optical fibre networks; and the planned Teaching and Learning Centre at the Neelsie parking area, which is in the tender process.

# Social impact for a better future

One of SU’s strategic objectives is to have a greater impact on society. In this way, we endeavour to give effect to our goal of being more future focused.

Social impact affects all University environments. With a view to strengthening this crosscutting function of SU, the matter is afforded special attention in Prof Koopman’s restructured CoR for Social Impact, Transformation and Personnel.

One aspect involves enhancing the impact of the University on society in a broader context. This includes civil society – comprising family life, art, culture, sport, schools and other educational bodies, academic institutions, religious organisations, civil movements, voluntary organisations, NGOs, the media, and the administration of justice.

Other social spheres are those of politics in its broadest sense, including policy and governance processes at the local, provincial, national, continental and international levels, as well as the economy, industry and ecology.

The National Development Plan for South Africa and the sustainable development goals of the United Nations (UN), which are being revised for the era after 2015, provide guidelines for focusing on societal challenges that SU is able to influence.

Social impact tends to be reciprocal. The University has a transformative effect on the broader society, while in its turn, society influences thinking and activities at the University.

The Division for Community Interaction is now known as the Division for Social Impact, and will have a pivotal role in this portfolio. In future, all role players will be represented on the Senate Committee for Social Impact (previously the Senate Committee for Community Interaction). In addition to the current representatives from learning and teaching, as well as from research and innovation, the committee includes representatives from bodies such as the Legal Aid Clinic, Maties Sport, Innovus, our rural platform in Worcester, the SU *Woordfees* (or Word Fest), the International Chamber Music Festival and the University Museum.

## SU makes solar power breakthrough

The feasibility of concentrated solar power (CSP) as a realistic, cost-effective and clean alternative to fossil fuels is set to be given a major boost with the launch of a pilot CSP facility at Stellenbosch University (SU), demonstrating a new solar collector system.

Situated at Mariendahl, an experimental farm of SU, [the Helio100 pilot facility](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=2863) will be officially opened at the end of September. The Helio100 technology is designed for CSP plants as small as 100kW – enough power to provide electricity for about 30 South African households.

Sponsored by the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA), Helio100 is being developed by the Solar Thermal Energy Research Group (STERG) at SU, under the leadership of **Mr Paul Gauché**. It is the first university research group in the country to focus on solar thermal energy research. The project is hosted in the Centre for Renewable and Sustainable Energy Studies (CRSES) in SU's Faculty of Engineering.

The Helio100 Project generated good publicity internationally – also in the [*Guardian* in the UK](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/aug/24/south-african-team-may-have-solved-solar-puzzle-even-google-couldnt-crack).

## Court ruling on debt orders

The High Court in Cape Town ruled on 8 July 2015 in favour of [an application by SU’s Legal Aid Clinic](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=2708) about emoluments attachment orders (EAOs, or garnishee orders), in which the Clinic represented 15 clients – farmworkers, cleaners and security guards – from Stellenbosch and surrounds. They had sought help after micro-lenders had obtained court orders against them.

According to Justice Siraj Desai’s court ruling, it was unsurprising that the applicants defaulted on their repayments, as loans had been granted without taking into account the applicants’ financial position, with repayments at times exceeding 50% of their monthly income. He declared the relevant EAOs unlawful and found that certain provisions of the Magistrates’ Court Act were inconsistent with the Constitution. On the one hand, there was insufficient judicial oversight over the EAOs, while on the other hand such orders were often obtained in courts far from the debtors’ homes and places of work.

The court ruling has national repercussions, as it offers relief to the many “ordinary working people trapped in debt who lost a large part of their salaries because of EAOs obtained unlawfully,” as Justice Desai put it.

## People with disabilities

On 4 September, SU again participated in Casual Day, the flagship project of the National Council for People with Physical Disabilities. This affords us the opportunity to reflect on ways that we can support people with disabilities.

This year, 345 students with disabilities registered at Maties. Their conditions ranged from sensory impairments, cerebral palsy and other health conditions needing support, such as having mobility or orthopaedic disabilities, or a reading, writing or speech disorder. Several of our residences offer facilities for students with disabilities, and various academic buildings are already fully accessible. There are ongoing efforts to make learning and teaching accessible to students with disabilities.

The [Disability Unit](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/learning-teaching/student-affairs/cscd/Pages/Disabilities.aspx?TermStoreId=d4aca01e-c7ae-4dc1-b7b2-54492a41081c&TermSetId=26eeba77-1e62-4949-9459-36136fa4de9c&TermId=01966fb1-f127-4f69-a397-0c4e68bf588e) (formerly the Office for Students with Special Learning Needs) of the Centre for Student Counselling and Development (CSCD) is the starting point for co-ordinated support for students with disabilities. At the Unit’s Lombardi Braille Centre, class notes, prescribed books and articles, as well as test and examination papers, are converted into Braille for blind and low-vision students.

SU has a proud record in terms of sporting activities for people with disabilities. [Maties ParaSport](http://matiesparasport.co.za/) focuses on six sporting codes – athletics, cycling, goalball, handcycling, rugby and swimming – and has produced several World and Paralympic champions. Students with disabilities are also encouraged to join one of the many student societies. One of these is [Dis-Maties](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/students/student-societies/Pages/DisMaties.aspx), a society that advocates for the issues of students with disabilities.

Although we have come a long way in making Maties more accessible to people with disabilities, much remains to be done. We aim to welcome and integrate all colleagues and students as fully-fledged members of our diverse University community. This is part of our continuing journey of transformation.

## 4.4 Khayamandi Oral History Project launched

A [project to research the oral history of Kayamandi](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=2841) was launched on 22 August 2015. The project is a joint venture between the Imbadu Ma-Afrika Development Consortium, an apolitical non-profit organisation, SU and the Solms-Delta Wine Estate. It is aimed at collecting local stories and so to learn more about the history of this Stellenbosch township, one of the oldest in the country. Although the township officially was established in 1941, its roots go back to more than two decades earlier.

SU will co-ordinate the research, with the Department of History in a key role and the Division for Social Impact (previously Community Interaction) also involved. The idea is to build on existing sources, such as a 2011 Master’s degree thesis. Archival research also will be undertaken, and the oral history of the community will be collected. Interviews will be undertaken by fieldworkers from Kayamandi, with training being provided by SU. A competition is also on the cards for high school learners to write up mini-biographies of particular residents, with the University Museum showcasing the learners’ work.

## Campus renewal

The end of 2014 saw the approval of an overarching campus project for which an amount of R52 million was made available in 2015 to launch projects across campus. The Engineering project, and planning for the renewal of the HB Thom Theatre and the Drama Building, form part of the appropriation of these funds.

In 2013, a master plan was developed for the Engineering complex involving the renewal of buildings and facilities. Certain aspects of the master plan require large-scale investments, and realistically it would not be possible to execute them in the short term. A report was submitted to the SU Council in June 2014, indicating that maintenance backlogs in this complex and other buildings had reached alarming proportions. Funds have already been allocated for this purpose as part of the overarching campus renewal project, and the external consultants are in the process of developing the Engineering master plan in detail in consultation with the Faculty in order to address all the needs in this regard. The construction of the first project will commence in March 2016.

Planning for the HB Thom and Drama renewal project – including the proposed new small theatre – is already under way. Comprehensive needs are currently being researched in association with all parties involved. Consultants are involved in concept design and inspections of buildings in order to determine the full scope of the project and do basic cost planning.

Facilities Management is looking at various options to accommodate aspects of the Drama Department’s activities in temporary spaces. When executing the project, certain logistical challenges will have to be overcome. The aim is to finalise planning and design aspects during 2015 and to commence construction by the end of the first semester of 2016. The estimated construction period is 18 months.

As far as Tygerberg is concerned, it has been decided to accommodate all 167 residents of Huis Kerkenberg on the campus itself – in the new residence that currently is being constructed and that is estimated to be completed by March 2016. The main reason for this is safety. The fact that Huis Kerkenberg is not situated on the campus is leading to increasing problems with crime. This move consequently has been brought forward to 2016 from 2017. Huis Kerkenberg will be sold.

It is clear that much more student accommodation is required on the Tygerberg Campus. A tender process has been initiated to construct an additional residence by 2017. It will then be possible to accommodate more student on campus – particularly first-year students – and to provide them with the planned junior and senior residence experience.

## SU in the news

For the period under review (June to the beginning of September 2015), the University was in the news on many occasions. A large focus of my above report is on transformation and I have referred extensively to the *Luister* video.

On campus I have kept staff and students in particular, as well as the university community, up to date on the Management’s opinions on transformation and the handling of the issue via [various announcements](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/management/wim-de-villiers/announcements). In the video [#SUforward](http://bit.ly/1PSd2I2) ([#USvorentoe](http://bit.ly/1inYG7M) in Afrikaans), I provide a clear explanation of the University’s views. These opinions have also been conveyed to the media repeatedly.

In this time we have also emphasised what already has been done and how the situation has been handled (compare, for example, [Forward together at SU](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=2897); [SU Senate expresses support for transformation](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=2861); [Stellenbosch University extends open invitation to OS](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=2872); [Rector addresses new student leaders, talks about ‘Luister’ video](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=2856); [SU Management responds to "Luister" video](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=2833); [SU invests in transformation of staff corps](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=2800); [Management takes steps after disruption](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=2784); [Transformation and multilingualism given a boost at S](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=2732)U. These also were acknowledged in the media.

On a positive note, the University also enjoyed positive media coverage on the basis of various awards, achievements and research breakthroughs.

Early in June an announcement was made of the University’s contribution to the [Jan H Marais Prize](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=2607) and the creation of the [fund for the promotion of isiXhosa](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=2605). Early June also saw the dedication of the [Nedbank Stellenbosch University LaunchLab](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=2621) building. An article by the Tygerberg Marketing Team, [*Cannabis use can lead to multiple health and psychiatric complications*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=2681), attracted considerable reaction in the media and particularly on social media.

Following shortly on the heels of the announcement of the first penis transplant earlier this year, the research done by Dr Amir Zarrabi, [*Men with vasectomies can be dads again*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=2674), also enjoyed much attention in the media. Another strong medical story was that on Dr Ronald van Toorn’s innovative treatment methods for [children with tuberculosis-meningitis](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=2683).

The start of July saw the annual [Stellenbosch International Chamber Music Festival](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=2704), which always enjoys good exposure in the media, as well as the annual [Isibalo Symposium](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=2692) of the Centre for Regional and Urban Innovation and Statistical Exploration (CRUISE) in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

An issue that received a great deal of publicity was the events surrounding [PRASA](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=2711), while the death of [Prof Johan Degenaar](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=2748) also figured strongly in the media. Community newspapers in particular provided good exposure to the contributions made by staff and students to [Mandela Day](http://www.sun.ac.za/afrikaans/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=2695). A number of newspapers and broadcast media reported on the [commemoration of the “Battle of Andringa Street”](http://www.sun.ac.za/afrikaans/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=2704).

SU and the Western Cape Department of van Agriculture entered into an agreement in August [to boost research](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=2839) that received a lot of news coverage.

Maties also perform well in sport. Achievements include [*Matie swimmer wins two medals at IPC world champs*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=2740) and the [*Matie athlete, Justine Palframan, who won gold at the World Student Games*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=2712)). Other news snippets are that the [FNB Maties (rugby) held on to the Grand Challenge Cup](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=2875), the Maties [women’s](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=2826) and [men’s](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=2842) hockey teams that won their respective WP leagues, and the [Maties Parasport athletes, who received sport awards](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=2828).

It also gives me pleasure to mention a number of intelligent publications – the latest research report ([*Research at Stellenbosch*](http://www.sun.ac.za/afrikaans/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=2634)) and our alumni magazine, *Matieland*, of which only one special issue will appear each year in October, but now is supported by three [e-versions](http://www.sun.ac.za/afrikaans/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=2566).

Thanks to the Division for Research Development the [Knowledge Directory](http://www0.sun.ac.za/knowledge_directory/) now also is active. This guide, developed jointly by the Division for Research Development and the Postgraduate and International Office and Information Technology, promises to improve the visibility of our research expertise and to be a handy source of information for the media.

New on the scene is [*The Conversation Africa*](https://theconversation.com/africa) *–* our continent’s own version of the successful, independent, non-profit website and “news office” *The Conversation*, which is also run in Australia, the UK and the USA. It makes the expertise of academics available by publishing articles for laypeople written by the academics themselves, but then edited by journalists, although in the final instance that are approved by the author.

I also would like to acknowledge the members of staff of SU who have provided opinion articles for the media (see the list below). In the reporting period (June until the beginning of September 2015), 50 opinion pieces by SU members of staff and students were published in the media, most of which were facilitated by the Division for Corporate Marketing. Thorough analysis of this nature – typically the result of specific expertise and knowledge – helps to establish SU nationally as a place where there is thought leadership on a wide variety of topics. It also gives me please to mention our regular columnists, such as **Profs Amanda Gouws and Nico Koopman**, and others who regularly participate in radio programmes.

| **WRITER** | **DEPARTMENT** | **ARTICLE HEADLINE** | **PUBLICATION & LINK** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Dr Johan Fourie | Economics | Lower levels of social mobility locking the poor into equalities of the past | [*Cape Times*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/newsclips/Johan%20Fourie_Social%20Mobility.pdf) (9 Jun) |
| Dr David Olivier | Southern Africa Food Lab  | Gardens of fresh hope drained by deep-rooted challenges (doctoral based opinion piece) | [*Cape Times*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/newsclips/Olivier_Cape%20Times.pdf) (10 Jun) |
| Mr Hannes Kruger | Journalism student | Kan die jeug asseblief opstaan … | [*Rapport*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/newsclips/Hannes%20Kruger.pdf)(14 Jun) |
| Dr Nathaniel McGregor | Psychiatry/Genetics | Seven new genes linked to anxiety disorders | [*The Conversation Africa*](https://theconversation.com/seven-new-genes-linked-to-anxiety-disorders-42835) (15 Jun) |
| Mr Sivive Feketha | Journalism student | Youth still victims of mediocre education (Youth Day) | [*Cape Times*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/newsclips/SFeketha.pdf)& [*Mercury*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/newsclips/SFeketha1.pdf) (15 Jun) |
| Mr Simon Sonnekus | Journalism student | A letter to Hector: you did not die in vain (Youth Day) | [*Cape Times*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/newsclips/Simon%20Sonnekus.pdf); [*Mercury*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/newsclips/Simon%20Sonnekus1.pdf)& [*www.iol.co.za*](http://www.iol.co.za/news/a-letter-to-hector-you-did-not-die-in-vain-1.1872040#.VcC_mfmqqko) (15 Jun) |
| Dr Michael le Cordeur | Curriculum Studies | Waarheen met Afrikaans? (Youth Day) | [*Die Burger*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/newsclips/LeCordeur_Die%20Burger.pdf) (16 Jun) |
| Ms Helene Booyens | Journalism student | Jeug verdien meer as ŉ dag (Youth Day) | [*Eikestadnuus*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/newsclips/HBooyens.pdf) (18 Jun) |
| Dr Firoz Khan | School of Public Leadership | To make hope and history rhyme, listen | [*Mail & Guardian*](http://mg.co.za/article/2015-07-03-to-make-hope-and-history-rhyme-listen) (3 Jul) |
| Dr Nic Spaull | Post-doctoral fellow: Economic and Management Sciences | Early action key to improving maths | [*Business Day*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/newsclips/Spaull_Business%20Day.pdf) (6 Jul) |
| Prof Anton van Niekerk | Philosophy | Hou oog op die regse radikale | [*Die Burger*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/newsclips/AntonvanNiekerk-Die%20Burger.pdf) (7 Jul) |
| Dr Johan Fourie | Economics | Poor matric results rooted in weak Grade 1-3 foundations | [*Cape Argus*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/newsclips/Johan%20Fourie_Cape%20Argus.pdf)& [*Daily News*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/newsclips/Johan%20Fourie_Daily%20News.pdf) (7, 8 Jul) |
| Dr Jason Bantjes | Psychology | Boys’ schools examined afresh | [*Cape Times*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/newsclips/Bantjes_Cape%20Times.pdf)& [*Mercury*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/newsclips/Bantjes_Mercury.pdf) (8 Jul) |
| Ms Anna Orthofer | PhD student: Economic and Management Sciences | Savings: What are we talking about? | [*www.fin24.com*](http://www.fin24.com/Savings/News/Savings-What-are-we-talking-about-20150713) (13 Jul) |
| Prof Eugene Cloete | Vice-Rector: Research and Innovation | Higher education path will engineer innovation and prosperity in Africa | [*Business Day*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/newsclips/ECloete_Business%20Day.pdf) (15 Jul) |
| Dr Marietjie Wepener | US Business School | Corporate reputation: Build it, guard it, gain from it (doctoral based opinion piece) | [*www.howwemadeitinafrica.com*](http://www.howwemadeitinafrica.com/corporate-reputation-build-it-guard-it-gain-from-it/50388/)(15 Jul) |
| Prof Wim de Villiers | Rector and Vice-Chancellor | Geskenk van onderrig (Mandela Day) | [*Die Burger*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/newsclips/WimdeVilliers_Die%20Burger.pdf) (16 Jul);[*The Conversation Africa*](https://theconversation.com/mandelas-belief-that-education-can-change-the-world-is-still-a-dream-44858)*;* [*www.iol.co.za*](http://www.iol.co.za/weekend-argus/maties-continues-madiba-s-legacy-with-the-gift-of-education-1.1886947#.VcCYlfmqqkp)*;* [*www.skillsportal.co.za*](http://www.skillsportal.co.za/content/gift-education)(16, 17 Jul) |
| Dr Johan Fourie | Economics | Sal Europa se ‘stout seun’ nóú wakker skrik? | [*Rapport*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/newsclips/Johan%20Fourie_Rapport.pdf) (19 Jul)  |
| Dr Colette Schulz-Herzenberg/Prof Amanda Gouws | Institute for Justice and Reconciliation/ Political Science | Rainbow fades as public distrust grows | [*Business Day*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/newsclips/Amanda%20Gouws%2BCollette%20Herzenberg.pdf) (20 Jul) |
| Dr Michael le Cordeur | Curriculum Studies | ŉ Taal is ook bevry (Mandela Day) | [*Die Burger*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/newsclips/leCordeur.pdf) (21 Jul) |
| Dr Nathaniel McGregor | Psychiatry/Genetics | New gene links to schizophrenia could open door to improved treatments | [*The Conversation Africa*](https://theconversation.com/new-gene-links-to-schizophrenia-could-open-the-door-to-improved-treatments-43898)(21 Jul) |
| Prof Willie Esterhuyse | Emeritus Professor in Philosophy and Business Ethics  | ŉ Rebel teen dinkdiktators  | [*Rapport*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/newsclips/Willie%20Esterhuyse_Johan%20Degenaar.pdf) (26 Jul) |
| Prof Maureen Robinson | Dean: Education | Improving student teachers’ in-school experience is a smart investment | [*The Conversation Africa*](https://theconversation.com/improving-student-teachers-in-school-experiences-is-a-smart-investment-44785)& [*The New Age*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/newsclips/Robinson_New%20Age.pdf) *(*27 & 28 Jul) |
| Prof Dave Richardson | Botany and Zoology | Invasive species threaten our national biodiversity (World Nature Conservation Day) | [*Cape Argus*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/newsclips/Prof%20Dave%20Richardson_Cape%20Argus.pdf) (28 Jul) |
| Dr Jantjie Taljaard | Infectious Diseases Division | Staying vigilant in battles with viral hepatitis strains (World Hepatitis Day) | [*Cape Times*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/newsclips/Taljaard_Cape%20Times.pdf) (29 Jul) |
| Prof Suzette Viviers/ Ms Samantha Mitchell/ Prof Eon Smit | Business Management/US Business School | ESG (environmental, social and governance) Reporting in SA: Where are the gaps? | [*www.fin24.com*](http://www.fin24.com/Opinion/ESG-reporting-in-SA-where-are-the-gaps-20150731)(31 Jul) |
| Dr Nathaniel McGregor | Psychiatry/Genetics | Do we inherit or develop anxiety disorders? | [*Mail & Guardian*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/newsclips/NMcGregor_MandG.pdf) (31 Jul) |
| Ms Celia van der Merwe | Molecular Biology and Human Genetics | Spice up and reduce inflammation | [*Mail & Guardian*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/newsclips/Cvandermerwe_MandG.pdf) (31 Jul) |
| Prof Charles Wiysonge | Centre for Evidence-based Health Care | Africa is within reach of being declared a polio free region  | [*The Conversation*](https://theconversation.com/africa-is-within-reach-of-being-declared-a-polio-free-region-44786) (5 Aug) |
| Mr Trevor McArthur | PhD student: Sociology and Social Anthropology  | Race is too much of a sloppy concept to assist us in answering the coloured question | [*Thoughtleader-Mail & Guardian*](http://thoughtleader.co.za/readerblog/2015/08/06/race-is-too-much-of-a-sloppy-concept-to-assist-us-in-answering-the-coloured-question/) (6 Aug) |
| Prof Amanda Gouws | Political Science | Unpacking the difference between feminist and women’s movements in Africa | [*The Conversation*](https://theconversation.com/unpacking-the-difference-between-feminist-and-womens-movements-in-africa-45258) (9 Aug) |
| Prof Charles Wiysonge | Centre for Evidence-based Health Care | The legacy benefits from Africa’s fight against polio | [*The Conversation*](https://theconversation.com/the-legacy-benefits-from-africas-fight-against-polio-45688) (11 Aug) |
| Prof Steven Robins | Sociology and Social Anthropology | Much-needed political context sorely missing in ‘Andringa Street battle’ report | [*Cape Times*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/newsclips/Robinds_Cape%20Times.pdf) (11 Aug) |
| Dr Pia Addison  | Conservation Ecology and Entomology | Stop bugging the bugs: the world would fall apart without them | [*The Conversation*](https://theconversation.com/stop-bugging-the-bugs-the-world-as-we-know-it-would-fall-apart-without-them-45726) (13 Aug) |
| Mr Jan Greyling | PhD student: Department of Agricultural Economics | Is jy op die (ISO)-bus? | [*Landbouweekblad*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/newsclips/JGreyling_Landbouweekblad.pdf) (14 Aug) |
| Prof Erwin Schwella | School of Public Leadership | Jou diagnose is verkeerd! | [*Rappor*t](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/newsclips/ESchwella.pdf) (16 Aug) |
| Dr Johan Fourie | Economics | Ekonomie kán groei, selfs al is land se onderwys swak | [*Rapport*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/newsclips/JFourie_Rapport.pdf) (16 Aug) |
| Prof Wim de Villiers | Rector and Vice-Chancellor | Target is more diversity at SU | [*Cape Times*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/newsclips/WdeVilliers_Cape%20Times.pdf) (17 Aug) |
| Dr Chris Jones | Practical Theology and Missiology | ŉ Teologie van insluiting sê onvoorwaardelik ja vir “ja!” vir gays | [*Litnet*](http://www.litnet.co.za/n-teologie-van-insluiting-se-onvoorwaardelik-ja-vir-gays/)(18 Aug) |
| Mr Evan Cupido | M-based opinion piece: Political Science | Transform rugby at grassroots level | [*Cape Argus*](http://www.iol.co.za/sport/transform-rugby-at-grassroots-level-1.1902642#.Ve68mxGqqko) (19 Aug) |
| Mr Trevor McArthur | PhD student: Sociology and Social Anthropology | Language, belonging and the decolonial moment at South African universities | [*Thoughtleader-Mail & Guardian*](http://thoughtleader.co.za/trevormcarthur/2015/08/20/language-belonging-and-the-decolonial-moment-at-south-african-universities/) (20 Aug) |
| Dr Elisabet le Roux | Unit for Religion and Development Research | South Africa’s rising rates of violence against women demand a unified approach | [*The Conversation*](https://theconversation.com/south-africas-rising-rates-of-violence-against-women-demand-a-unified-approach-45837)(26 Aug) |
| Prof Wim de Villiers | Rector and Vice-Chancellor | Gemaksones moet agtergelaat word | [*Die Burger*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/newsclips/WimdeVilliers_DieBurger.pdf) (31 Aug) |
| Prof Wim de Villiers | Rector and Vice-Chancellor | We are all 100% responsible to be the change we want to see | [*Cape Times*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/newsclips/WimDeVilliers_Cape%20Times.pdf) (31 Aug) |
| Ms Rika Butler /Mr Martin Butler | School of Accountancy/ University of Stellenbosch Business School | How to foolproof your password and avoid being a victim of cybercrime | [*The Conversation*](https://theconversation.com/how-to-foolproof-your-password-and-avoid-being-a-victim-of-cybercrime-46699) (31 Aug); [*Diamond Fields Advertiser*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/newsclips/Butler_Diamonf%20Fields.pdf)(1 Sept) |
| Prof Winfried Lüdemann | Music | Why culture, not race determines tastes in music | [*The Conversation*](https://theconversation.com/why-culture-not-race-determines-tastes-in-music-46639) (3 Sept) |
| Prof Nox Makunga | Botany and Zoology | How changes in African traditional medicine research can benefit South Africa | [*The Conversation*](https://theconversation.com/how-changes-in-african-traditional-medicine-research-can-benefit-south-africa-46486) (3 Sept) |
| Prof Julie Claassens | Old and New Testament | Students must come together, empathise | [*Cape Times*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/newsclips/Claassens_Cape%20Times.pdf) (4 Sept) |
| Prof Amanda Gouws | Political Science | Ons behoort na jonges te luister | [*Netwerk24*](http://www.netwerk24.com/stemme/menings/2015-09-07-amanda-gouws-ons-behoort-na-jonges-te-luister)*;* [*Volksblad*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/newsclips/Gouws_Volksblad.pdf) (7; 8 Sept) |
| Prof Wim de Villiers | Rector and Vice-Chancellor | Maties is serious about fostering transformation | [*Cape Argus*](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/newsclips/win%20de%20villiers_cape%20argus.pdf) (8 Sept) |

## HESA now Universities South Africa

Higher Education South Africa (or HESA) will in future be called Universities South Africa.

According to the organisation, the change of name follows commitments and agreements by the Executive Committee and Board of Directors, on which all rectors/vice-chancellors are represented. The aim is mainly to establish an identity that reflects the exact scope of their interests and activities, especially for public South African universities.

The organisation also stressed that, apart from the name and corporate identity change, all the activities and structures of the organisation will be preserved.

**FROM THE REPORT OF THE VICE-RECTOR: LEARNING AND TEACHING**

## Student success

Student success is regarded as a combination of academic performance and co-curricular activities during their university life. In 2009 the module-based success rate of undergraduateand postgraduate students was 83,9%, and in 2014 it was 85,1%. The objective for 2015 is 85,5%.

The students of the Academic Affairs Council and the Institutional Research and Planning division jointly developed systems for the formal recognision of performance in co-curricular activities. As from 2015 leadership, sport, cultural and other outstanding achievements will be included on a co-curricular transcript issued in addition to a student’s degree certificate.

## Student numbers

The June census has indicated that a total of 30 150 students are enrolled at Stellenbosch University in 2015. Of these 63,2% are undergraduate; 33,3% are postgraduate and 3,5% are special students.

Of the 5 371 first-year students in 2015, 34,1% are black, coloured and Indian. This estimate for 2016 is 37,7% and the strategic objective for 2019 is 50,3%.

## Student bursaries

Stellenbosch University offers undergraduate merit bursaries for all qualifying students; undergraduate recruitment bursaries for BCI students only; meritorious bursaries for poor students through means tests, and postgraduate bursaries.

In 2010 SU allocated R71,1 million from its main budget to student bursaries compared to R103 million in 2014. Of the 18 254 undergraduate students in 2014, 7 369 students received bursaries. Of these 7 369 bursary recipients 4 066 are BCI students.

A bursary fund for the former residents of “Die Vlakte”, as well as their children and grandchildren, has been established and will be awarded for the first time in 2016. Stellenbosch University benefitted from the removal of coloured residents from the area named “Die Vlakte” during the apartheid years. These bursaries will be allocated according to the same criteria as the University’s recruitment bursaries.

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING**

The next Council meeting, the last of 2015, is scheduled for 30 November.