

2012

REPORT OF THE INSTITUTIONAL FORUM

Mr Le Roux Burrows

Chair: Institutional Forum

The Institutional Forum (IF) is an advisory body that, in terms of the Higher Education Act (Section 31(1) of Act 101 of 1997), advises the University Council on policy matters, including the execution of the provisions of this abovementioned act and national policy on higher education.

The activities of the IF consist of meetings during which their advice to Council is considered, as well as discussions between the executive committee of the IF and the Rector and his management team. At times the members of the IF are divided into three task groups, namely on Diversity and Equity, on Institutional Planning and on Institutional Culture, to streamline their activities. Members serve voluntarily in the task group(s) of their choice. When necessary, the task groups are supplemented by ad hoc groups. The mandate of the task groups is to investigate as thoroughly as possible specific matters that are assigned to them. They then report back to the IF so that it can give well-considered advice to Council.

COMPOSITION

The Statute of the University stipulates the composition of the IF – 32 members, eight from each of the four groupings, namely for governance, staff, students and the community. The composition of each grouping is prescribed. The IF may appoint a Council representative from the unattached members of the community sector. This means that the IF has to appoint such person from at most six people – an appointment that was not done because the position will disappear in terms of the proposed amendments to the Statute.

ACTIVITIES

The IF carries out its normal duties by advising the University Council on policy documents and commenting on the University Management's implementation of the abovementioned Act. The IF furthermore has attempted over the past year not only to focus strictly on its legally prescribed duties and responsibilities, but also to focus on specific matters, as determined from time to time, with the aim of offering Council proactive advice for consideration and further investigation.

Amendment of the Statute

The IF sent its proposed amendments to the Statute to Council, with certain recommendations for Council's consideration. The most important recommendation was that the IF no longer may appoint a Council representative.

Proposed policies

By way of formal reports, the IF advised primarily on new policies. University policies that were at issue were the Rules of Procedure for the appointment of Vice-Rectors; the Rules of Procedure for the Appointment of Full-time Deans; the Policy on Students with Special Learning Needs/Disabilities; the Policy regarding the Handling of Applications for Extra Writing Time (and Other Concessions) during Tests and Examinations; the Policy on the Hiring Out and/or Use of SU Facilities for Gatherings; the SU Policy regarding Joint and Double Degrees at Master's and Doctoral Level with Foreign Universities; and the SU Quality Assurance Framework and Policy.

Appointment of vice-rectors and deans

In accordance with the University's Rules of Procedure for the Appointment of Vice-Rectors, the IF appointed representatives to serve in the selection committees for the appointment of a vice-rector (learning and teaching) and a vice-rector (research and innovation). Furthermore, representatives were also appointed in terms of the Rules of Procedure for the Appointment of Full-time Deans to serve in the selection committees for the appointment of a dean for the Faculty of Engineering and one for the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

IF commentary on policies and formal requests

The advice to Council on the proposed amendments to the rules of procedure for the appointment of vice-rectors and full-time deans was that the amendments should be reconsidered. There are questions about how to justify the proposed new procedure in terms of the SU Statute. It simply is not clear enough how the proposed rules of procedure will lead to better decision making and University management.

The IF supports the overarching intention of the policy on students with special learning needs or disabilities and on the handling of requests for extra writing time. The IF generally is satisfied with the Policy on the Hiring out of Facilities, but they advised that there should be emphasis on the fact that the facilities are available primarily for the University's core business, namely academic use. The SU Policy regarding Joint and Double Degrees at Master's and Doctoral Level with Foreign Universities was recommended for acceptance without any further amendments. The comment on the University's Quality Assurance Framework and Policy was that the documents should be combined in one large document and that the document should not be time-bound through references such as "2011–2016".

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THE INSTITUTIONAL FORUM

The Institutional Forum is constituted in the manner laid down by the University's Institutional Statute. The 32 members are chosen for a term of three years, except the student members, who are chosen for a term of one year, and the Registrar (or representative), who is a permanent member.

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL ELECTED BY COUNCIL

Ms E le Roux

Mr PJ le Roux

MEMBERS OF SENATE ELECTED BY SENATE

Prof N Beyers

Prof JE du Plessis

Prof JH Knoetze

SENIOR DIRECTOR COMMUNITY INTERACTION

Dr JA Slamet

NOMINATED TO SERVE ON BEHALF OF THE DIRECTOR EMPLOYMENT EQUITY

Prof JF Smith

THE REGISTRAR (PERMANENT MEMBER)

Mr JA Aspeling

MEMBERS FROM OWN RANKS ELECTED BY PERMANENT, NON-PROFESSORIAL ACADEMIC STAFF

Mr L Burrows (*Chair*)

Dr KM Huddleston

Dr HE Prozesky

MEMBERS FROM OWN RANKS ELECTED BY THE ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES STAFF

Mr WP Davidse

Dr C Nel

MEMBERS FROM OWN RANKS ELECTED BY THE TECHNICAL SUPPORT SERVICES STAFF

Ms L Bredekamp (*Secretary*)

Mr AG Cupido

MEMBER FROM OWN RANKS ELECTED BY STAFF QUALIFYING FOR EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Mnr AM Petersen

MEMBERS FROM THE STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL ELECTED BY THE STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Mr MY Carelse

Mr S Crous

MEMBERS FROM THE PRIM COMMITTEE ELECTED BY THE PRIM COMMITTEE

Ms ME Beck

Mr CJ Jacobs

MEMBER NOMINATED BY THE STUDENT SOCIETIES

Mnr TC Jaftha

MEMBERS FROM THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL NOMINATED BY THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL

Mnr LS van Hilleghonsberg

Mnr H Klink

MEMBER FROM THE STUDENT UNION APPOINTED BY THE STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Me C Hanekom

NOMINATED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONVOCATION

Adv J du Preez (23.1.2013–30.9.2014)

Dr DA Scholtz (1.10.2012–30.9.2014) (*Vice-Chair*)

NOMINATED BY THE REPRESENTATIVE BODIES OF CIVIL SOCIETY

Mr MAC Bolton (Stellenbosch Municipality) (30.5.2012–30.9.2014)

Mr JRV Burger (Western Cape Education Department)

Rev HJ Goosen (Council for Church Cooperation)

Mr GG Groenewald (Stellenbosch Ratepayers' Association)

Ms PM Rossouw (Stellenbosch Welfare and Development Coordination Committee) (15.2.2013–30.9.2014)

Vacant (Local Health Network – new body to be appointed)