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09/09/95

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE TERTIARY SECTOR CRISES
HELD ON 9 SEPTEMBER 1995 IN CAPE TOWN

1. ATTENDANCE

Ms Cheryl Carolus (Chairperson)

Ms Linda Zama

Dr Dirk Meiring

Dr Chris Garbers

Dr Johan Pretorius

Mr Trevor Abrahams

Mr Duncan Sebifelo

Senator G Mashamba

Mr J H Roux (Secretary)

2. PREPARATIONS : LETTER

The Committee agreed that the crises revolved mainly around finances, governance structures and access.

3. PRESS STATEMENT

work. issues ← Finance
Governance
Access.
student behaviour

Dirk Meiring
to draft.

It was resolved that a media statement concerning the brief of the Committee be released provided there were substantive matters to report.

4. THE SITUATION AT THE SETLOGELO TECHNIKON

The meeting noted that the term of office of the Technikon Council, which would have advised the Minister concerning the situation, had expired.

The meeting also noted that financial matters could still be attended to and salaries paid as there were still ex officio members of the Council on the Technikon staff.

Colleges:

It was resolved that, in the light of the request by the Rector for a commission of enquiry, this Committee would first attempt to facilitate the resolution of the problem.

- The Chairperson would contact and inform the MEC for Education of the North West Province of the situation and request her to liaise with the Transformation Forum of the Technikon.
- Dr Meiring would take up the matter with the rector of the Technikon. separate meetings with the two groups would be arranged for 12 September 1994.

It was also resolved that the revision of the statutes and rules as well as repealing the Technikon's present Act be left in abeyance for the interim.

5. GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES

The meeting agreed that the Committee had as its task the normalising and democratising of the situation and mediating and facilitating the process of transition, but that it would not involve itself in the actual process.

It was resolved that the Committee would allow people to appear before them, but that the Chairperson had to authorise such interviews.

It was further resolved that the letter inviting submissions to the Committee concerning the democratising of tertiary institutions' governance structures, be extended through the press. The character of the Committee, as a mechanism for advising the Minister on the issue, should be set out in the letter.

6. REPORT OF TASK GROUP ON THE SITUATION ANALYSIS

The Committee noted that attention had not yet been given to a national loan and bursary scheme.

The Committee further noted that the principle of a "user fee" in education had not been addressed.

The Committee was further briefed on the present state subsidy. The Committee also noted that the reassignment of funds allocated to universities would result in shortfalls for other services.

7. INTERVIEW WITH STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES OF SASCO AND PASO

7.1 The Chairperson welcomed the representatives of the two student organisations.

7.2 The following students represented the organisations.

Stephanie Allais	SASCO
Mahlengi Bhengu	SASCO
Tsietsi Telite	PASO
Baldwin Ndaba	PASO

7.3 The Chairperson informed the meeting of the brief of the Committee.

7.4 The Committee noted the following perceptions of the two organisations on flashpoints:

- the transformation process
- finance denying access
- no democratic governance
- the absence of a national loan and bursary scheme
- subsidies to tertiary institutions.

7.5 The representatives interpreted their perceptions as follows :

- to see to it that Government's role should be seen in resolving the financial problems of certain universities and of students who could not pay : emergency financial allocations
- affordable tertiary education must be available
- that the management of tertiary institutions be sensitised regarding the crucial importance of transformation

- that an open and negotiated admission policy be applied at tertiary institutions
- Government must assist in democratising Universities, and the process needed to be all-inclusive for all who could benefit from tertiary education
- to convey to Government the need to :
 - * look into the financing of tertiary education;
 - * solve language matters at specific universities; and evaluate the curricula which should be based on the value systems of the nation.

8. CONCLUSION OF THE DELIBERATIONS WITH SASCO AND PASO.

The Chairperson concluded that the Minister would be advised on :

- possible solutions for the problem of the exclusion of students on financial grounds;
- possible extensions of the brief of the Commission for Higher Education;
- admission policies at tertiary institutions;
- democratising governance structures at tertiary institutions.

Reports on Transf. Forums

9. INTERVIEW WITH RECTORS OF UNIVERSITIES AND TECHNIKONS

9.1 ATTENDANCE

The following rectors attended the meeting.

J Reddy	University of Durban Westville
R W Charlton	University of the Witwatersrand
E T Mokgokong	Medical University of Southern Africa
Jos Grobbelaar	Committee of University Principals
C J Reynecke	Chairman, Committee of University Principals
B J Whyte	Committee of Technikon Principals
G S K Lenyai	Technikon Northern Transvaal
H C Snyman	Chairman CTP, Rector PE Technikon
A E Strydom	Executive Director CTP
D J J van Rensburg	Technikon Pretoria
Chris Swanepoel	Technikon Witwatersrand

- 9.2 The Chairperson informed the Rectors of the meeting with representatives of SASCO and PASO and mentioned that the Committee served as a mechanism to embark on a process whereby all stakeholders would be involved in order to validate the integrity of tertiary institutions.
- 9.3 The meeting noted the brief of the Committee and the CTP and CUP pledged their support to the Committee.
- 9.4 The Chairperson also noted that the Committee aimed at laying down a mechanism which would obviate daily mediation by the Minister on the most pertinent matters.
- 9.5 The meeting further noted that financial exclusions and the establishment of democratic governance structures were the most burning problems for the commencement of the 1995 academic year.
- 9.6 The meeting resolved that the Committee would receive feed back from the CUP and CTP on how financial matters would be addressed.

10. INTERVIEW WITH STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES OF AZASO

P Kepadisa

C Tleane

The Chairperson briefed the representatives on the task of the Committee.

The meeting noted the following perceptions of the representatives on the flashpoints:

* Governance Structures.

- Should be democratised.

* Finance :

Set up Committee of 3.
1. Pundy Pillay.
2. Kagiso

3. ANT: Gert Steyn.

- Investigate grants and donations to establish whether there was any discrimination
- Inform students of the reasons for increases in fees and obtain the participation of students

Brief Dr Cranbert
DEADLINE 2 wks

* Admission

- Increase the intake of black students at traditionally white universities.

* Objective evaluation

* Accreditation and certification

- The standard of all degrees, irrespective of the institution at which they were obtained, must be the same. *meet the required*

* Bridging Courses

- Traditionally white universities should open their doors and introduce bridging courses

* Upgrading of teachers

11. The meeting adjourned.

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