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Towards a

National Strategy

for Funding

Tertiary Education

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Bursary Council of South Africa (BCSA)

Venue: Education Building UCT 24 - 25 September 1993

BURsmY COUNCIL OF soOrH AFRICA
TOWARDS A NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR FUNDING
TERTIARY EDUCATION
Education Building
University of Cape Town
Friday, 24 September
14:00 - 16:00 Registration and Tea
15:00 Tea
16:00 - 16:10 Opening and Welcome - Jack Klaas, BCSA Chair
16:10 - 17:20 Keynote Address - Professor Gj Gerwel, University
of the Western Cape
17:20 - 17:30 Questions and Discussions
17:30 - 18:30 Supper
Saturday, 25 September
9:00 - 10:00 Dr Pundy Pillay, University of Cape Town
Tertiary Education Funding and Student Support Schemes
10:00 - 10:30 Questions and Discussion
10:30 - 11:00 Tea
11:00 - 13:00 The Current State of Affairs in Tertiary Education
Funding (Participants' Contributions)
13:00 - 14:20 Lunch
14:00 - 15:30 Panel Discussion : Towards a National Strategy for
Funding Tertiary Education
)k SASCO
)k AZASCO
)k PASO
)k Robert Segall
)k BCSA proposal
)k Debbie Budlender
15:30 - 16:00 Summary and Closure - James Maseko
Vote of thanks
16:00- 16:30 Tea

Recognising the urgent need for a national initiative to add
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t to attempt, in the interim, to mobilise additional resources to increase the pool of funds presently available nationally for need-based, tertiary student financial aid:

t to take any other necessary action to maximise the amount of funding available to facilitate access to tertiary education by those categories of students which, because of the nature and history of the society, have had limited access to education in South Africa in the past.

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The Committee, to be known as the South African Tertiary Institution
Students Financial Aid Committee ESATISFACJ, will consist of the
following persons:

t Three delegates representing tertiary institutions nominated by ...;
t Three delegates representing the NGO sector nominated by the Bursary
Council of South Africa; and

The Committee will have powers of cooption.

During October 1993, the convenor will call the first meeting which will determine a plan of action and draw fund all its activities and a full-time Becggt:::3?ropriate budget to The Committee will then seek funding for its budget.

The convenor will prepare a draft set of rules for the functioning of the Committee and the conduct of meetings in advance of the first meeting. The Committee will establish rules for its functioning and the conduct of its meeting at its first meeting and add to/change these from time to time.

One member of the executive will serve as Chairperson.

t take forward the Committee's plan of action,
i be its public representatives,
t deal with all day-to-day decision making, and
i ensure the effective hiring and management of staff.

to consider specific proposals and information which will be compiled by the secretariat working under the guidance of the executive in terms of the mandate of the Committee.

The Committee will send copies of its agendas, minutes, publications and public statements to all nominating bodies and all other bodies who wish to obtain them. (Bodies other than nominating bodies will be expected to contribute towards the costs of printing and postage of these documents.)

will compile a monthly report. This will also be
The executive icipants and subscribers.
distributed to all conference part
on its work to the
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report in Y which stage its
to
The Committee is required ithin 12 months at
participants of this conference w
future will be determined.

(Of the Federal Theological Seminary of Southern Africa)
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This statement embodies the proposals of TCOE to the debate on education finance for students in tertiary institutions. The basis of these proposals is two-fold, namely, that h. t primary and secondary education is the inalienable right of all South African children, and it is the duty of the state to make it compulsory and free as well as provide books and meals for these children up to Standard 10; t tertiary education is the most expensive componenti of the education package and its financing, beyond the means of the majority of parents in South Africa. It is necessary. therefore, to devise a method of providing funds to avail it to all students wishing to proceed into technikons and universities. The proposals also take due cognisance of the fact that government financing (of it) up to now, via segregated bodies and such organisations as T.E.F.S.A., has proved cosmetic and ineffective. passing by thousands of needy students of the unfranchised majority living in rural and urban areas.

1. Our main proposal is that this Forum should constitute itself into a specific lobby actively intervening on this subject at all levels. As such it should compose a well - structured proposition . and present it to the government. This should motivate legislaion for the levying of a special education tax, payable by all South African taxpayers. The education tax should be graduated along the lines of income. beginning from as low as R10.00 per person to much higher levels on the incomes grid, per month. A simple reckoning will show that such a personal tax will yield a viable fund for our purpose, and also that it will be popular to parents who are always willing to pay for their children's education. From the point of view of state funds this will also lessen the tendency to fall back on foreign loans that plunder public funds and constitute a heavy drain on both our taxes (now much much heavier) and the country's foreign - exchange reserves. It is our belief that an Education Tax is a public facility for which the?government is specially accountable to parents. As such its disbursement should rest in the hands of the parents' committee's, via local government bodies. and includes N.G.O.'s with the proven public constituency and answerable to verifiable bodies of local people and P.T.S A 's. We urge this Forum to take a close look at this proposal and commission a studying of it and its framing in scientific form. t (See Tax Grid Below)

2. We also want to propose that C.B.O. s involved in the bursary process should continue what began at central government in the local communities where they work. For our part this proposal is geryd amenable to our method of operation _ which is people - ase .

We have no doubt that even the suggested Education Tax will not be able to fund every student in the country beyond Standard 10. The balance of the students, admittedly very few, will want other funds. A complimentary fund can now be built by the people themselves in their local communities. This can take the form of Community Bursary Trust Fund. Such a fund can be built by the people via local organisations including churches. An effort of this kind will need the mobilization of all parents. teachers and students into conscious fighters and organisers for this fund. A Community Trust, which is a legal entity, will build up funds from voluntary contributions by people and invest the money gainfully and use the investment as a base for accessing further funds from both the corporate world and other donors, not exceeding foreign donors.

A Community Trust Fund, properly conceived in developmental terms. will identify looal skills needs and local students who can be taken through a tertiary institution so that they can answer the particular need. Local development needs, be they in health education, or whatever identified field, can therefore be tied upo with local students who are then supported by the Community Bursary Trust Fund. These numbers of students, necessarily restricted, will however be even more important from a development point of view than those funded either by teohnikons, universities or the government Education Tax system. We can not emphasise more strongly how crucial we think these funds should be in both education and development.

3. Finally, we propose that this Forum should formally constitute itself into a lobby for the general purpose of pressurising government and government bodies for them to sensitise all their funding arrangements for education to the needs of the majority of students among the oppressed communities. In particular, our lobby should stand for a redressing of all past illls in the area of education. We should therefore, design a programme of ideas and action geared towards that general objective. In that regard teenhikons and universities have a definite redressing role to play as part of an overall national effort to attack and wipe out the evils of the past in education. To all those aims should our lobby focus our energies.

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BATLAGAE TRUST W

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Nick Mogatutsi

Director

Bursary Council of South Africa

Johannesburg

2000

Fax : 339-6241

Dear Nick

Plight of Returnee Students of Turfloop

A representative of 25 returnee students under the sponsorship of ASCOP, with funds made available by UNETPSA and KFS, appealed to the Batlagae Trust to intervene on the nonpayment of funds towards their bursaries.

We informed the representative that the Batlagae Trust is not able to intervene for professional reasons but that the Bursary Council of South Africa, as the umbrella body for bursaries, might be the appropriate body to attend to their plight.

I am therefore bringing to your attention the concerns conveyed to us by the Turfloop representative. They are extremely unhappy about the management of their bursaries by ASCOP, particularly the lack of transparency when it come to how much money they' re entitled to and the unresponsiveness of ASCOP to their grievances. They are obviously having a difficult time without funds for meals, books, etc and the University is naturally inconvenienced by the delay in payment of fees and accommodation. The Batlagae Trust initially referred these returnees to ASCOP and therefore has a sense of responsibility towards them. Could you please do whatever you feel you can on their behalf.

With regards

Yours sincerely

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MOHAMMED TIKLY

(Director)

Trustees: MichaelCorke(Chairman) John Samuel Barbara Watson WiHiam Serili NeilMcGurk
Executive Director: Mohammed lely