

Bursary Council of South Africa

BCSA

QDQKS\$ stb u ha) 4 August 1994

It Iohnlled Tickle:

MW TRUST

PO Box 7748

JOHAIIBBUIG

2000

Dear Mr Tickle

Please find enclosed the minutes of the Council committee meeting held in Durban on 12 July 1994.

We would like to remind Ielbers to send in any information that they what us to put into the next newsletter before 13 August 1994. Please fax your contributions to the director's office.

Yours faithfully

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: BURSARY COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Enclosed 1

Bursary Council of South Africa

BCSA

MINUTES OF THE BURSARY COUNCIL COMMITTEE HELD ON 12 JULY 1994

AT BLUE HATEBS HOTEL, DURBAN AT 10:00

PRESENT: Gloria Bennet (EBF), Avra Richen (EBF), Lynette King (CEAP),  
1.

MP Giyose (TCOE), T Wills (UNINATAL), Ann Knock (UNINATAL)

Mvuyo Macanda (UCT), Francois Bill (FUNDANI),

Nico Jooste (FORT HARE), Keith Bingle (FUNDANI),

Laura Schultz (SSC), Mahlengi Bhengu (SASCO),

Graham Renecke (UWC), Ivan van der Heever (PENTECH),

S Cele (NECC), Philemon Modipane (UNI NORTH),

B Sithole (UNI NORTH), Chris Aitken (CA's EDEN TRUST),

Neels Claasen (PENTECH), Khunela BJ (UNI VENDLA),

Nale Mashapa (SASCO), Jack Klaas (BCSA), Zandile Mdhladhla (EOC),

Joyce Mashamba

OPENING AND WELCOME

The Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed all council members present. The Chairperson also took this opportunity to inform council members that we should look at the council strategy and strive towards the future especially within the changes that are, facing South Africa.

She particularly welcome the newly appointed director, Jack Klaas and also the new administrative assistant, Ursula Fortuin to BCSA. The Chairperson also took this opportunity to inform the council that one of the executive committee members, Joyce Mashamba was resigning from BCSA. Ms Mashamba was thanked for the contribution that she has made to the Bursary Council of South Africa over the years.

Nale Mashapa (SASCO President and BCSA Executive Committee member) was also given the opportunity to make introductory remarks. He talked about the input SASCO can make in BCSA. He said we should look at how we would adapt to the changes that are taking place. We should locate our role within the existing current political situation.

Now that we have achieved national democracy, this brings with it challenges. The critical challenge facing us is that of delivery. Expectations are high thus any democratic minded person need to support the Reconstruction and Development Programme. He pledged SASCO's support for the Reconstruction and Development Programme and said he was hoping that the Bursary Council will support the programme too.

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We need to look at what role we could play in the implementation of the Reconstruction and Development Programme. Tertiary Education need to be placed on the agenda of the Government as one of the issues which need the immediate attention. We need to readdress the imbalances created by the apartheid system. We need to develop the intellectual skills which are essential for transformation of tertiary education in particular, and the South African Society in general.

The Government will have to deal with the crisis which is currently facing tertiary education funding. We need to make an input in the manner in which the government need to address that crisis. We need to revisit our demand for the establishment of a national loan and bursary scheme. We also need to look at what role we could play in the revision of the subsidy formula.

Nale also indicated that SASCO and NECC has already met with the Minister of National Education to discuss the possibility of convening an all inclusive national conference on tertiary education to look at the above-mentioned points.

In his conclusion Nale appealed to Bursary Council and its member organisations to be part of the ongoing debate on tertiary education restructuring and not look at administrative issues only.

Joyce Mashamba thanked Nale Mashapa for his input and she also thanked council members for their friendship, the joy she had at BCSA over the years. She said that it was a sad moment for her to leave but she would continue to play a part in education, now that she was moving into parliament. She urged BCSA members to work hard to make the RDP work and deliver what was expected of it.

#### APOLOGIES

Technikon Northern Transvaal;

Mendi Memorial Trust;

Beva Runciman (CEAP).

Changes were made to the order of the agenda and a motion to accept these was proposed by Laura Schultz, seconded by Francois Bill.

#### MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted. Motion to accept proposed by Laura Schultz, seconded by Chris Aitken.

5.

#### INTRODUCTION

Chris Aitken asked all organisations present to introduce their organisation and briefly discuss the major issue(s) their organisation were faced with.

#### EDEN TRUST

Increase the number of accountants to study and develop practically. There is a growing interest from students and there is a need to rationalize. There is an opportunity for potential accountants.

#### FUNDANI TRUST

There is an increase in the number of students in need of funds, but a decrease in funding. Students are in need of financial assistance and personal support. He should look at education - bridging courses to students not just at tertiary level but start right at the bottom of the education level. We need to develop these skills right from the start.

#### UNIVERSITY NATAL

Students have a reliance on loans to fund their education. This reliance will bankrupt the institution. Students then struggle to pay their loans back at the end. We have a responsibility towards the students to solve this problem.

#### ECUENICAL BUBSABY FUND

Dwindling of funds - donors rather give funds directly to the state or other areas. In other words they redirect their funds. The donors are changing their priorities. Education should be the responsibility of the state. They should unlock the doors of state funding.

#### PENINSULA TECHNIION

There is an ever increasing need for financial assistance while the budget is decreasing. Greatest need in humanities, than in science.

"ITUATEBSRAHD UNIVERSITY

The restrictive conditions of the British Council in their funding policy was the Iain problem. Money allocated specifically for students doing science and engineering could not be allocated to other black women students even though there are no black women engineering and science students in need of finance. Students in other faculties are in need of funds. Support for post-graduate studies is also decreasing. There is also a crisis around funding for residence students.

Students who are funded by Kagiso Trust whose parents are working as domestic workers or students from rural areas are struggling with the declaration of family income and this affects their funding.

FORT BARB UNIVERSITY

Experience a similar crisis like other institution with regard to funding. Draw lost of its students from the old D.E.T. thus there is a necessity for a bridging course. No one is funding this bridging period.

TOOK

No funding for bursaries in 1994. Only administering TEFSA loans without any administration fees.

No basic social programme for funding. It is a necessity of the people. Growth of loans burden students. Needs to obtain funding.

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Students contribution increased to be R4 700 in 1994. Most students are unable to pay it thus we also have a crisis. RDP have other priorities. Donors are redirecting their funds to the state for RDP purposes.

E00

Lack of funds. Non-paylent by donors. Money has been promise from overseas but unfortunately the money has not arrived. Could still fund 10 students who are doing their Master degrees this year. EOC asked member organisations to refer suitable candidates to their office.

#### UNIVERSITY NORTH

Not able to cater for all students. Only a limited means of students. Student are not able to repay loans.

#### SSC

Declining in funds. How to use this small amount of money we have now - develop a new programme for ex-prisoners, NGO's, training and rural outreach programme, etc.

Building a national funding structure to fund students, contributing to national needs.

#### SACC

SACC bursary programme back on track, however the future is uncertain as SACC is reviewing its role.

#### UNIVERSITY OF VENDA

Insufficient funds to cover the needs of students . Money is not covering all our loans/bursaries needed. Students failing to pay balance will bring about a number of drop outs.

Difficulty around declaration of family income due to rural background, etc.

#### CRAP

Problems similar to other bursary programmes. Students are receiving large amounts of loans. They struggle to pay these loans back at the end. Social problems and family expectations will be another problem. Need to look at other sources of funding.

#### NECC

Not a bursary granting organisation, but interested in policies and principles of tertiary education funding. Participation in reconstruction and development programmes. In human resource development programme - contribute towards this issue.

UWC

Develop ways to obtain new funds and programmes. Pulling resource together, working on new systems, develop ourselves. Develop new strategy.

Similar problems like other institutions, particularly on KT. SASOO

There is a need for us to have a partnership inside and outside the government. Tertiary education should be there to develop skills and to build an economy. There has been a funding crisis in tertiary education.

Chris Aitken thanked organisations for their input. This input would be useful to everybody. Now we also know the problems that our other members have and not just our own institution. We need to come up with a policy to help or to solve these major issues that we are facing. The purpose of this input was to find out what is happening to our different member organisations.

TEA BREAK 11:30 - 11:45

## 6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT INCLUDING HATTEB'S ARISING

### 6.1 US TOUR REPORT

We have not yet received the report from Ismail Moss. He is on study leave and we were unable to make contact with him. We apologize for this delay.

Our delegates also bought books back from the study tour. The director has made photocopies of the table of contents of these books and it will be posted to our member organisations. If your organisation is interested in any of these books we have to charge due to the printing cost and our financial standing. Organisations interested in buying books can place an order by writing a letter or a fax.

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#### IEiEABCH ON TEFSA & BCSA

Debbie Buddlender was mandated to do the research. It was distributed to member organisations at this meeting. Unfortunately, Debbie was not available to present the research at this meeting. There will be a further discuss/debate on TEFSA. This report was mainly done to establish the relationship that BCSA have with TEFSA. BCSA could have access to funding.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

The draft constitution was received on 9 July 1994. It was therefore impossible to distribute the constitution to members 7 days before the time. Members were asked to inform the director's office in 6 weeks whether they have any objection with regard to the new constitution. If there were no objections it would be taken as approved.

#### NEWSLETTER

The second newsletter was distributed at this meeting. Members are requested to send in any information that they want us to put into the next newsletter before 13 August 1994. Depending on this we might have a newsletter every month. If members want us to send newsletters to any other organisations, they should fax the details to the director's office.

#### ANNUAL REPORT

This report is not yet ready due to the changes that we've had in our office. We request members who have not yet send in their annual reports kindly to do so.

#### FINANCIAL REPORT

This financial statement was discussed at the Biannual General Meeting but it was not adopted as it was not audited. It was agreed that the financial statement should be adopted.

#### SUBSCRIPTION FEES

We have received subscription fee payments from 13 of our members. We request other members to make arrangements for payments, to indicate whether, when and where they have send their cheques. We are saying this due to the fact that we have moved from Braanfontein to Cape Town and certain cheques may have been delayed through the post.



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#### ENVI ANALYSIS

This was noted in the director's report. Director also mentioned that we should look at the short-term courses because lots of our member organisations are stating that donors are changing their priorities or redirecting their funds. We also need to indicate the importance of tertiary education - to look at human resource development.

We need to work out a co-ordinated strategy approach that should work with the Minister of Education.

- The role BCSA plays;
- Establishing a national loan/bursary scheme;
- Restructuring of education;
- Engaging with the Minister of Education;
- Access to the RDP funds.

#### DATABASE

The Director reported that nothing has happened in this regard. This was discussed during the afternoon session.

The Chairperson thanked the director for his report, and it was opened for discussion.

#### HALE IASHABA

How BCSA fits into the RDP? We have to be representatives of the community. We need to introduce a programme where we represent all our people. We need to look at the needs of all the people.

Establish a database;

we need resources

we can use government resources - this could be a state project;

BCSA needs to engage with the state in this regard.

#### HEELS CLAASEN

BCSA to organise themselves in their region. BCSA need to find a constructive definition to affirmative action because of the mixed feelings that people have about this issue.

FRANCOIS BILL

NGOs give access to students at financial and personal level. The different bursary organisations should form a national union. Different regions should work together.

Joyce Mashamba thanked the members for their input. She also stated that BCOSA should start afresh. Set up a commission of enquiry. The survival of the bursary organisations are at stake and we must look at the different aims and objectives we all have and find common ground. We should redefine our route. The Chairperson thanked Joyce for her contribution.

LUNCH BREAK 1:00 - 2:00

Discussion Session

Members were divided into 5 groups to discuss the following questions:

1. The need for regional co-ordination;
2. The role to be played in the RDP;
3. Financial Aid Offices - capacity building;
4. National database;
5. Co-ordinated approach around funding - TEFSA, KT, Private Sector.

REPORT ON THIS DISCUSSION

GROUP 1 - THE NEED FOR REGIONAL CO-ORDINATION

There is a need for regional co-ordination.

We should be familiar with the future policy of the government.

Networking for organisations is also important to create skills, better development, etc.

GROUP 2 - THE ROLE THAT KEEN; TO BE PLAYED IN THE RDP

We first need to establish what the (RDP) role is.

Should BCOSA play the role of an umbrella body when engaging with the RDP, Government, NGOs.

Should BCOSA engage with the institutions and students - should they represent the institutions and students.

BCOSA should bring a balanced view to the RDP.

BCOSA's expertise to be utilised.

## GROUP 3 - FINANCIAL AID OFFICES

Financial aid should be administered centrally and/or regionally.

Students should be able to apply at one place for finance instead of different/individual institutions.

Transformation of tertiary education is essential for the establishment of a democratic financial aid office.

Transparency needs to be looked at - structure of the funding system.

## GROUP 4 - NATIONAL DATABASE

Database should also be centralized. No small institution can run a national database. It can only be run by a his organisation.

Information gathering is necessary.

Finding out what resource are available to students to proceed with careers.

Resource for institutions to continue with their job.

What is the role of BCSA - facilitator/participants.

Regional and national resources.

Must be state or state agency.

We need to look at database at a small scale and encourage the state to look at a broader role of database and take responsibility for its implementation.

## GROUP 5 - GOeOBDINAIION

Coordination can be divided into the following:

t coordination - student funding

t coordination - institutions - upgrade facilities.

Students should pay some amount to their fees when given loans.

Do the organisation have the capacity to collect their money from students after completion of studies - in cases of loans.

We should encourage less competition along bursary organisations and lore cooperation and spread of resources.

#### Contents:

BCSA should be addressing financial aid holistically. People might see the BCSA as a bursary organisation because of the name. That is why students apply at the BCSA for bursaries. National coordination - who takes the responsibility when we talk about a national coordination? We should look at the tile-franes. The relationship between RDP and BCSA. BCSA should look at their policies/franework and also the constitution. The director's office together with the executive members was mandated to look at all these issues. Including the future role of BCSA. The Chairperson thanked lenbers for their input.

#### 7. TEFSA REPORT

Jack Klaas ask the members to give their comments on the following question that was asked by Robert Segall (TEFSA). "The subsidy formula has been set at 3(Africans), 2(Coloured), 1(Indian). This leans that the HBU's get a very high subsidy in comparison with the HWU's . HWU's have high fees and feel they need a top-up of funds.

These are some of the comments that were put forward by Ienbers.

Funds should be allocated per student.

The upgrading of historically black universities.

Readdressing the imbalance.

To review the formula.

To look at the concerns of black students within a historically black university.

Students moving around to the historically black universities because of the funds allocated.

Members were ask to give details in writing about this issue due to the fact the some members have to leave the meeting to catch their flight. The director will keep member organisations in touch with regard to the question that was raised by TEFSA.

The Director and the Executive Committee will also follow-up on this issue.

#### 8. CLOSURE

The Chairperson thanked everybody for attending the meeting and the contributions that have been lade.

The next council meeting will be 22/23 November. We night have a special council meeting, but members will be informed about that.