

Events in the Programme Governance & Political Transformation

CONTACT SESSIONS HELD AT THE BEGINNING OF 2012

Postgraduate Diploma

The Programme in Governance and Political Transformation held a contact session with the newly enrolled Postgraduate Diploma students on the Main Campus of the University of the Free State from 23 – 26 January 2012.

Students that enrolled in the Postgraduate Diploma include teachers, administrators, councillors and members of provincial legislatures. There are three international students from Lesotho, Zimbabwe and Kenya. Inside our own borders students came from Limpopo, Gauteng, KZN, Free State, North West and the Eastern Cape to take part in this one of a kind programme.



Masters Degree

The Programme also held a contact session for the Masters students from 31 January – 2 February 2012. These students come from across the country and include students from Lesotho, Namibia and Ethiopia.



March Graduation Ceremony and Prize Giving Function

Eight students in the Programme Governance and Political Transformation received their Postgraduate Diplomas at the fall graduation ceremony of the University of the Free State. The ceremony was held on 27 March. Pictured here are three of the students who attended the ceremony. They are, from left:

Mr S.L. Hlope;
Mr P.M. Phoolo;
Dr T. Coetzee (Programme Director); and
Mr L.B. Mabaso

Not pictured here are:

Mr T.S. Ditalame;
Mr G.W. Hermanus;
Mr R.J. Mokolutlo
Mr S.G. Ncokazi; and
Mr M.D. Sebego



At the prize giving function of the Faculty of the Humanities, two of our students received prizes for best Masters Degree and best Postgraduate Diploma students respectively.

Pictured here are, from left:

Ms P.N. Nkwezane
(Best Masters Degree Student 2011)

Dr T. Coetzee
(Programme Director)

Mr S.L. Hlope
(Best Postgraduate Diploma Student 2011)



***"You never know what results may come of your action,
But if you take no action, there will be no result"
- Mahatma Gandhi -***

Dr Tania Coetzee, Programme Director of the **Programme Governance and Political Transformation**, presented a paper at the 12th Annual Conference of the South African Association of Public Administration and Management (SAAPAM) held at the University of the Free State's Main Campus from 7 – 9 March 2012. Her topic was: *Intergovernmental relations: does it contribute towards development?*

Another interesting and informative Research Seminar planned

The 3rd annual Research Seminar presented by the Programme Governance and Political Transformation, promises to be another huge success. The Programme will be hosting the Seminar from 26–27 July 2012. As always the Seminar will take place on the Main Campus of the University of the Free State. During the Seminar there will be keynote speakers, all experts in their field. These academics will share their valuable knowledge on research and the importance thereof.

They will include, amongst others, Dr Mojalefa Koenane, Rev. Maniraj Sukdaven, and Dr Sara Motseia.

We invite all interested students as well as staff members to attend the Seminar.

The Value of a degree in Governance and Political Transformation

As citizens of South Africa we are aware of the difficulties and the challenges on local government level and the problems experienced particularly by municipalities. Lack of accountability, responsibility and transparency (just to name a few), all part of **good governance principles**, are seen at municipality level. Municipalities are under constant pressure to deliver services to communities to improve the lives of citizens. The ward committees and ward councillors find it difficult to cope with the demands and needs of the communities. The political behaviour of citizens who are not satisfied with the basic services provided are making their concerns known through violent protest marches. In order to address these crucial issues, students can further their knowledge and qualification.

The **BA Programme in Governance and Political Transformation** has a specific niche and focus, namely **governance, political transformation and political management**. Three main subjects (majors) within the degree, namely **Political Science, Public Administration and Management and Communications Science**, all contribute to provide the necessary scientific knowledge, analytical skills, strategic management and general background which make it possible for students to be better prepared to work in a public and private sector.

Written by Dr T. Coetzee

Service Learning module: the practical experience

The service learning module within the B.A. curriculum provides a golden opportunity for students to gain firsthand experience on a **very practical level regarding governance issues within communities**. Students contributed to improved communication between the communities and ward councillors. They also obtained a better understanding of the theoretical framework of Political Science and Public Administration and Management and could clearly use and link the theory of the different subjects to understand the practical issues and problems experienced by communities and councils in a better way. They were able to identify the basic principles of good governance and could advise the community and councillors on how to implement good practices and improved service delivery.

Different communities' needs, problems and disputes were identified and discussed during **workshops and meetings** organised by the students themselves. These matters were brought to the attention of the services sector (public servants in local government spheres). In the process the accountability of public servants, particularly ward councillors, was ensured. The community obtained a better understanding of the theoretical framework of political management and the difficulties with implementing decisions and policies. Community members voiced their opinions and shared their dreams, concerns and needs in an open and transparent manner.

Students also had the opportunity to **present their research findings, experience and very important, their understanding of governance and political transformation** during a formal presentation to colleagues, students and the ward councillors of the different wards.

Comments from students during reflection:

"...we gained a lot of experience...we experienced the people's challenges and needs first hand and not from a distance. This module gave us the opportunity to be free and open minded...allowed us to grow as individuals and students." "...would like to extend a hand of appreciation to the programme planners as the module has proved itself to be invaluable in terms of general growth unlike with other programmes that put ultimate emphasis on nothing else but academic growth."

Written by Dr T. Coetzee

Some of the Community Service Learning students came together for a picnic to end the semester.

What a lovely bunch!



Supervisors

The Programme is privileged to have 41 acknowledged academics across South Africa, and even from abroad, providing our students with the best possible study supervision. These supervisors are very experienced in their field which provides our students with guidance to ensure good quality research and well written extensive mini-dissertations.

Departments involved at the University of the Free State include:

- Department of History
- Department of Sociology
- Department Religion Studies
- Language Management
- Research Cluster on Sustainable Development

External institutions involved in supervision in the Programme include:

- Central University of Technology, Free State - Departments Communication, Public Administration, Education and Law
- Turfloop Graduate School of Leadership
- Africa Union, Addis Ababa
- Institute for Global Dialogue, Pretoria
- NMMU: Department of Political Science
- Stellenbosch University: Department of Political Science
- TUT: Institute for Economic Research on Innovation
- UJ: Department Politics
- UKZN: Public Administration and Development Management & School of Philosophy and Ethics
- UNISA: Department of Political Science
- University of Fort Hare: Department of Development Studies
- University of Zululand: Department Political Science
- Governance and Political Cooperation: Delegation of the European Union to South Africa
- Heriot-Watt University, School of Management and Languages: Dubai

WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE THE FOLLOWING FIRST SEMESTER LECTURERS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROGRAMME

Dr Tania Coetzee
Governance and Political Transformation
UFS

Prof. Johann de Wet
Communication Science
UFS

Dr M.F. Murove
School of Philosophy and Ethics
University of KZN

Mr Willem Ellis
Centre for Development Support
UFS

Prof. Hendri Kroukamp
Dean: Economic and Business Science
UFS