

EVENTS IN THE PROGRAMME GOVERNANCE AND POLITICAL TRANSFORMATION

Circular 10

FIRST SEMESTER 2013

DEPARTMENT POLITICAL STUDIES & GOVERNANCE

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”
— Nelson Mandela

Postgraduate Diploma Contact Session

At the beginning of each year the Programme in Governance and Political Transformation holds a contact session with the newly enrolled students. This year was no different. The contact session was held on the Main Campus of the University of the Free State from 21 – 24 January 2013. There were 17 new Postgraduate Diploma students present at the session.

Pictured on the right are some of the students who attended the session along with Dr Tania Coetzee, programme director.



Masters Degree Contact Session

The contact session for the Masters Degree students took place from 28 – 30 January 2013. There were 30 new Masters Degree students at the session.

Pictured on the left are some of the Masters Degree students posing with Dr Tania Coetzee. They are caught in a light-hearted moment as they show off how good it will feel once they complete their Masters Degree.



YOU BE THE JUDGE

Signs and trends of maladministration, corruption, shortage of skills, protest marches and poor service delivery are issues which we are confronted with every day. These issues are related to governance issues. Nobody can deny that good governance is a prerequisite for order and stability in a country. (Munshi, Abrahan, Chaudhuri 2009:vii).

Good governance becomes more and more important within society and therefore also the discourse of good governance is crucial (Munshi, Abrahan, Chaudhuri 2009:ix). Good governance practices are a prerequisite for funding opportunities or investments. Therefore, different organizations, World Bank, International Monetary Fund and developmental organizations put emphasis on good governance practices. It is also linked to the different policies and policy implementation and the manner in which these policies manifest in practice (Munshi, Abrahan, Chaudhuri 2009:2,3). Governance can be defined as “the action or manner of governing” (Munshi, Abrahan, Chaudhuri 2009:1). Governance refers to all activities of government, formal and informal to achieve common goals (Munshi, Abrahan, Chaudhuri 2009:1).

Characteristics of good governance include checks on executive power, management of resources, representation, rule of law, with independent judiciary laws based on impartiality and equity, a honest police force, competent public service with clear lines on accountability and transparent and responsive decision making (Bevir, 2009:26 – 27). Good governance emphasizes socio-political conditions including participatory decision-making, consensus and mediation, and a strong civil society. Poor governance refer to “the diversion of public resources for private gain, absence of law or arbitrariness in its application, excessive rules which impede the functioning of markets, allocation of resources in a manner that is inconsistent with the priorities of development, and a decision making process that is not transparent” (Munshi, Abrahan, Chaudhuri 2009:5). “Bad governance is identified with corruption, wastefulness, incompetence and unresponsiveness, all of which impede economic development and perpetuate poverty” (Bevir, 2009:93).

With this being said, there is a need to measure good governance. We can measure good governance by looking at the following categories. I will leave it to your own judgement in terms of the South African situation. Be critical and think for a minute. How will you view the categories?

Category 1: Voice and accountability,

Category 2: Political stability and absence of violence.

Category 3: Capacity of government’s effectiveness and implementations of sound policy.

Category 4: Citizens respect for institution which is related to legitimacy.

If you judge that poor economic performance, corruption, high crime rate, poor service delivery, unregulated migration, lawlessness are present in South Africa, the question is what are we going to do about it? How can we bring about change and transformation to improve the quality of life for citizens? How can we improve good governance and good governance practices to improve and attend to the problems which South Africa faces? Surely you will agree that good governance practices are needed. Therefore I would like to challenge you today and during your studies and in your work environment to find ways in which you can improve and enhance good governance in all the different spheres of society, political, economic, social, religion, law and global. It is a daunting task but I have no doubt that we have the capabilities to make a difference.

Written by Dr. Tania Coetzee

April Graduation Ceremony and Prize Giving Function



Pictured left are two of the students who received their Postgraduate Diplomas in April 2013. They are (from left) Mr M.J. Makhetha, Ms R.P. Kalaote and Dr Tania Coetzee (programme director).

Not pictured here are:

Mrs. Y. Coetzee
Mr S.R. Magalefa
Mr Z.S. Mdunge
Mr L.S. Mofokeng
Mrs. P.V. Molahloe
Mr T. Mongwe
Mr T.Z. Tshoeu
Mr S.S. Zulu

The book prize was awarded to the best Post Graduate Diploma student in Governance and Political Transformation for 2012: Mr M.A. Mdunge



The merit prize was awarded to the best Master's Degree student in Governance and Political Transformation for 2012: Mr M.L. Mkhize



Mr Thabo Diseko, a registered Ph.D student in Governance and Political Transformation, is spreading his wings! Mr Diseko will be attending the **25th Summer School on Federalism, Decentralization and Conflict Resolution at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland during 19 August to 6 September 2013**. This will greatly assist him in writing the Ph.D thesis. We are looking forward to the outcome.

The Programme is privileged to have 36 acknowledged academics from across South Africa providing our students with the best possible study supervision. These supervisors are multi-disciplinary academics and are very experienced in their fields.

Departments involved at the university of the Free State include:

Department of Sociology
 Department of Constitutional Law
 Language Management
 Centre for Development Support
 Department Religion Studies

External institutions involved include:

Department of Political Science, University of Stellenbosch
 Africa Union, Addis Ababa
 Central University of Technology, Free State
 Department of Public Administration, University of Limpopo
 School for Social and Government Studies, North West University
 Department Politics, University of Johannesburg
 Department of Political Science, UNISA



On 4 May 2013 the University of the Free State held its Open Day for prospective students. Pictured left are Tshegofatso Letsapa and Nteboheng Mopeli who helped with the marketing of the Programme Governance and Political Transformation at the Open Day.

**Imagining the
future of
governance**

Dr. Tania Coetzee from the Department Political Studies and Governance (Programme Governance and Political Transformation) attended the 13th Annual Conference of the South African Association of Public Administration and Management at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, Cape Town Campus on the 3-5 April 2013.



The paper with the title: The essence and indicators of good governance dealt first with a clear conceptualization on governance and related concepts such as accountability, responsibility and transparency. The second part of the paper discussed the indicators and measurements of good governance. Measurements such as political stability, public participation and government effectiveness and implementation of policies were discussed. The importance for the universal use of the measurements for good governance is important in the light of democracy, investment and development.

PROGRAMME CONTACT DETAILS

Programme Director

Dr Tania Coetzee
(051) 401 2928
coetzeet@ufs.ac.za

Administrative Staff

Mrs Juanita Potgieter
(051) 401 9308
potgieterjc@ufs.ac.za

Mrs Yolandi Coetzee
(051) 401 2014
coetzeey@ufs.ac.za

Mrs Cathy de Lange
(051) 401 2271
delangeecs@ufs.ac.za

E-mail: governance@ufs.ac.za

Fax: (051) 401 9351