

Indian university education and UDW timeline

- 1909** The Natal University College (future University of Natal) was established on 11 December 1909. The Natal Indian Patriotic Union (NIPU), a body formed by colonial-born Indians, held a protest meeting at the Indian Market in Victoria Street on Sunday, 19 December, where a resolution was passed calling on the government to amend the Natal University Act so that 'British Indians, irrespective of colour or creed, may have access to the proposed University College.' This was rejected by the Natal government.
- 1928** Following the Cape Town Agreement of 1926/27, which mentioned the 'upliftment' of Indians, the newly appointed Principal of Natal University College, John W. Bews suggested the creation of a College for Africans at Adams Mission on the South Coast and one for Indians at Sastri College. The government did not take heed.
- 1936** Pressure from the Indian Agent-General and academics Mabel Palmer and Maurice Webb led to the opening of the 'Non-European' section of Natal University College with an enrolment of 19 students.
- 1942** Report of the committee (Hugo) to enquire into the present facilities and future policy for higher education for Indians in Natal
- 1953** (Holloway) Commission of Enquiry on 'the practicability and financial implications of providing separate training facilities for non-Europeans at universities.' A 'Report of the Commission of Enquiry on Separate Training Facilities for Non-Europeans at Universities, 1953-1954' was released in 1955.
- 1953** Bantu Education Act: Brought African education under the control of the state and extended apartheid to black schools.
- 1955** Inter-departmental committee, chaired by the Secretary for Education HS van der Walt 'to investigate and report on the provision of separate university facilities.'
- 1957** The Van der Walt committee reports - 'Short summary of the findings of the interdepartmental fact-finding committee on the financial implications in connection with the establishment of separate university colleges for non-Europeans.' White Paper C-57
- 1959** Extension of University Education Act, Act 45. The Act segregated South African universities along racial and ethnic lines. The law decreed that "white" universities were closed to Black students, separate universities were to be established for Indian, Coloured and African students, and that those for African students would be segregated by ethnicity.
- 1959** Proclamation 221 and Proclamation 223 stipulated that from 1 January 1960, blacks who were not yet registered as students of universities other than Unisa or the Natal Medical School would not be allowed to register without the written permission of either the Minister of Bantu Education or the Minister of Education.
- 1961** Establishment of the University College for Indians on Salisbury Island, Durban, as a constituent college affiliated with the University of South Africa (UNISA)

1963 An Interdepartmental committee was appointed to recommend academic programmes at the black university colleges not offered by Unisa (such as engineering, dentistry, agriculture, etc.).

Higher Education amendment Act 20 empowered the State President to allocate authority in terms of the Higher Education Act of 1955 to any minister. This Act was used to place the responsibility of the university designated for Indians in the hands of the minister of Indian Affairs.

1967 Commission of Enquiry into Dental Services and the Training of 'non-white' Dental Surgeons, RP 79.

1969 University status was conferred on the University College for Indians by Act 59 of 1969, which was to take effect in 1971.

1970 UDW Student enrolment reaches 1,000.

1971 The University College became academically autonomous as the University of Durban-Westville.

1972 A new campus is established at Westville in 1972.

1974 A single Council replaces the whites-only Governing Council and Indians-only Advisory Council.

1977 UDW was allowed to admit non-Indian students with ministerial approval 'without changing the essential character of the University as an institution serving the Indian group.'

1979 The Universities for Blacks Amendment Act, No. 52. Amended the provisions of the University of Fort Hare Act, 1969, the University of Zululand Act, 1969, the University of the North Act 1969 and the Medical University of Southern Africa Act, 1976, so that African students could attend any Black African university.

1979 An independent Student Representative Council (SRC) is formed at UDW.

1983 The Universities Amendment Act, No. 83 permits white, Indian and Coloured universities to enrol 'persons of a population group or population groups other than that of which the body of a relevant university mainly consists to a study course or study courses' subject to a quota. No quotas were set, but Africans required ministerial consent to register for undergraduate degrees and diplomas in medicine, paramedical programmes, nursing and surveying. This condition was withdrawn in 1985 and repealed in 1991.

1984 UDW gained full autonomy, and the Council could finally establish its own policies.

1986 Recognition of the Combined Staff Association (COMSA) of UDW on the recommendation of the Booyesen Commission.

1990 Professor Jairam Reddy was appointed as UDW's first black Vice-Chancellor

- 1993** University of Durban-Westville Amendment Act (House of Delegates) Act 51 regulated the constitution of the council.
- 1995** SAQA Act (established SAQA): Provided for the development and implementation of a National Qualifications Framework and for this purpose to establish the South African Qualifications Authority.
- 1996** Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act No. 108
- 1996** SAQA appoints a committee (26 members) to oversee the development of the NQF and publishes the 'NQF working document.
- 1996** National Commission on Higher Education (NCHE) Report - A Framework for Transformation. Sets out proposals to reform the higher education sector. Its recommendations inform the Green Paper on Higher Education (1996), the Draft White Paper on Higher Education (April 1997), and eventually the White Paper on Higher Education (1997) and the National Plan (2001).
- 1996** Green Paper on Higher Education Transformation: Proposes a single body called the Council on Higher Education (CHE) to regulate and produce knowledge about higher education, to advise the Minister of Education on policy matters, and take responsibility for quality assurance. Also proposes differentiated institutions for higher education to meet the varied needs of the country in terms of promoting equity and meeting the needs of the labour market.
- 1997** The Higher Education Act (Act No. 101) regulated private and public higher education; provided for the establishment, composition and functions of a Council on Higher Education; the establishment, governance and funding of public higher education institutions; the appointment and functions of an independent assessor; and provided for quality assurance and quality promotion in higher education.
- 1997** Education White Paper 3: A Programme for the Transformation of Higher Education. Outlined a comprehensive set of initiatives for transforming higher education by developing a single coordinated system with new planning, governing and funding arrangements.
- 1998** Dr Mapule F. Ramashala was appointed the Vice-Chancellor of UDW.
- 1999** Higher Education Amendment Act No 55. Provided that the principal was the chairperson of the Senate, that the chairperson and the vice-chairperson of the council had to be elected from the external members of the council, the council could discriminate fairly between students who were not citizens or permanent residents and students who were citizens or permanent residents, with regard to certain matters, and empowered the Minister to appoint an administrator for a public higher education institution where there was financial or other serious maladministration.
- 2000** Higher Education Amendment Act No 54. Extended the power of the Minister of Education with regard to the determination of higher education policy and provisions regarding vacancies on the Council on Higher Education.

- 2000** Minister of Education, Kader Asmal, appoints a National Working Group (NWG) to advise on the restructuring of higher education on a regional basis.
- 2001** Higher Education Amendment Act No 23: accredited the Higher Education Quality Committee as an Education and Training Quality Assurance Body; established interim councils for the new, merged public higher education institutions; provided for the conferring of degrees and honorary degrees by a public higher education institution; and provided for the repeal of obsolete Acts.
- 2001** National Plan for Higher Education aims to lower the numbers of students taking Humanities courses from 49% to 40% and increase the numbers in Commerce and the Natural Sciences to at least 30% each.
- 2002** Release of the Report of the National Working Group (NWG). With regard to KwaZulu-Natal, the report recommended the merger of ML Sultan Technikon, Technikon Natal and Mangosuthu Technikon; the merger of the University of Durban-Westville and the University of Natal; the University of Zululand should become a 'comprehensive' institution offering some university and technikon-type programmes concentrating on the Richards Bay region.
- 2003** Higher Education Amendment Act No 38. Amendd the Higher Education Act, 1997, to provide for the regular reporting by the CHE on the state of higher education and to provide for the establishment of higher education institutes in Mpumalanga and the Northern Cape.
- 2003** Dr Saths Cooper was appointed Vice-Chancellor of UDW
- 2004** Merger of the universities of Natal and Durban-Westville, with campuses in Durban, Pietermaritzburg, Pinetown, and Westville, to form the University of KwaZulu-Natal.