



Project overview

**CHE-UFS Student engagement and success workshop
26-27 March 2009**



Studente Ontwikkeling en Sukses • Student Development and Success

UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE VRYSTAAT • UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE • YUNIVESITHI YA FREISTATA

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Overview

- Vision
- Objectives
- Participating institutions
- Project deadlines
- Project team
- Quality assurance
- Project benefits





Vision

Our vision is that this project will contribute to the development of effective education practices in higher education and a culture of evidence-based reflection on the relationship between student engagement and success.





Objectives

- The main objectives of the research project are:
 - Advocating the importance of student engagement for undergraduate education and success;
 - Planning and conducting a national pilot study on student engagement; and
 - Contributing to systemic and institutional capacity by generating national and institutional level student engagement reports and making available institutional data sets.





Participating institutions

- **Universities**
 - University of the Free State
 - University of the Witwatersrand
 - Stellenbosch University
 - University of Fort Hare
- **Universities of Technology**
 - Tshwane University of Technology
 - Cape Peninsula University of Technology
- **Comprehensives**
 - University of Johannesburg
 - Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University





Project deadlines

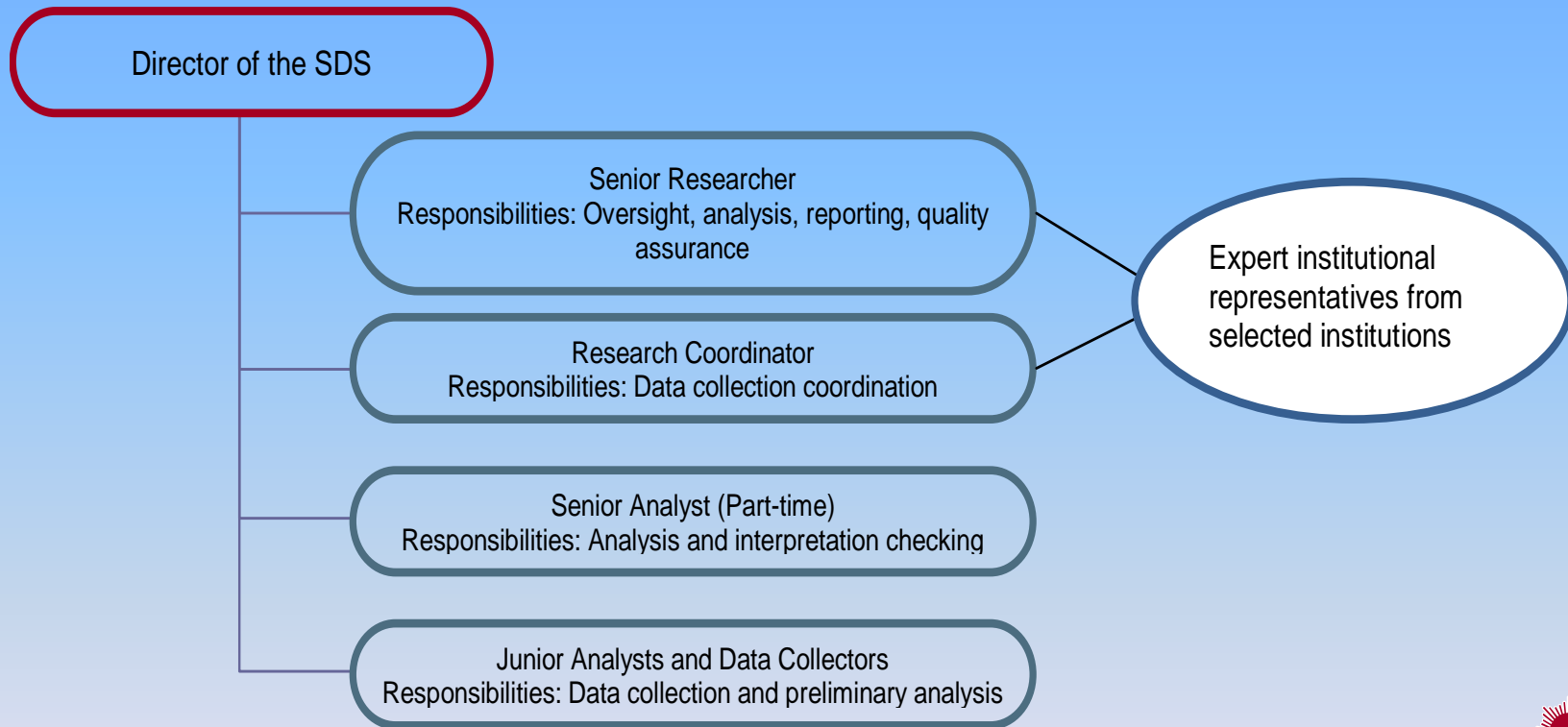
Date	Activity
March	2- Day Workshop of institutional representatives
May	CHE colloquium on improving undergraduate success
June	Institutional visits to finalise data collection planning
July-Sept	Data collection, capture and cleaning
November	Mailing of institutional reports





Project team

Figure 1 Project organogram





Quality assurance

- Overview of quality assurance measures:
 - Workshop with institutional representatives in March
 - Scheduled visits in June to do detailed planning of data collection;
 - The use of trained data collection teams that will collect data at institutions;
 - The use of optical scanners and data checkers to clean the data;
 - Three tier analysis process starting with preliminary analyses by junior analysts followed by checking of analysis by a senior analyst and final reporting by the senior researchers;
 - Professional language editing of reports; and
 - On-going collaboration and comparative work with colleagues at the NSSE Institute in the USA on improving student engagement.





Proposed Project benefits

- Informing the planning of undergraduate education practices to promote the creation of conditions necessary for student success.
- Benchmarking student engagement, especially effective educational practices nationally and with international higher education systems (USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand).
- Providing data on teaching and learning practices, as measured by the benchmarks, from a student perspective that can be used to identify areas where more research and focused interventions are needed to improve teaching and learning.
- Focusing self-improvement reflection in HEI's on research based data that allows them to compare themselves to other institutions in the country.
- Enhancing the quality debates by focusing on the investments that institutions make to foster proven instructional practices and the kinds of activities, experiences, and outcomes that their students receive as a result.





SASSE
South African Survey of Student Engagement

Thank you



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