



2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) REPORT -
ABRIDGED VERSION FOR ICED COUNCIL MEETING 2013

HELTASA's **mission and vision** is to promote quality in higher education practice through the creation of a synergistic network and the professionalisation of higher education practitioners in Southern Africa in three main areas of focus: policy matters in higher education; developmental practice and educational research

The core values of HELTASA are: Collegiality; professionalism; quality; equity; excellence; development; creativity; criticality; innovation.

1. INTRODUCTION

It is six years since HELTASA was launched under the new name at the 2006 conference hosted by TUT and the association continues to grow. Currently, the association has seven active Special Interest Groups (SIGs); the First Year Success SIG is the latest addition. The 2012 UP hosted Foundation Programmes conference was a resounding success. The National Excellence in Teaching and Learning Awards that the association runs in collaboration with the Higher Education Quality Committee (HEQC) of the Council for Higher Education (CHE) have been running for four years now. The Executive Director of the HEQC commissioned research to study the perceived impact of the awards and a research report was produced during the course of this year. It has been a fruitful year.

2. CONFERENCES

We are grateful to Prof Maritz Snyders and the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University team for convening the **2011** HELTASA conference. The conference attracted 337 participants with 177 abstracts that were accepted. That was a significant expansion in terms of attendance figures. The Executive Committee members would like to express their appreciation to Dr Francois Cilliers and the team for hosting the **2012** HELTASA conference.

It is a great pleasure to announce that we have volunteers to host the following forthcoming conferences:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Dr Matete Madiba; *Deputy Chairperson:* Prof Sioux McKenna *Treasurer:* Ms Mandy Hlengwa *Secretary:* Dr Susan van Schalkwyk; *Members:* Dr Pieter du Toit, Dr Mpho Jama, Ms Kibby Naidoo, Dr Clever Ndebele, Mr Robert Prince, Prof Ian Scott, Prof Maritz Snyders (Conference 2011), Prof Moloko Sepota, Dr Azwy Tshivhase, Ms Marinda van Rooyen.

2013: UNISA
2014: UFS
2015: UniVen
2016: Western Cape Region (in conjunction with ICED)

3. 2012 AT A GLANCE

- The Executive Committee held three meetings this year: two face-to-face and one telephone meeting.
- Amendments to the constitution were proposed and circulated to members.
- ICED, through the leadership of David Gosling has submitted a proposal to HELTASA.
- A Memorandum of Understanding between the CHE and HELTASA on the National Excellence in Teaching and Learning Awards was signed.

4. ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANCE

It has become clear that there is a need to establish the HELTASA office. There is a growing sense of vision to ensure that the association extends its activities beyond the annual conference and mid-year SIG events. In order to achieve this and to expand the range of benefits for members, there is a need to have a dedicated administration assistant. The Exec is exploring means to appoint such a person and to use 2013 as an experiment for such an office.

5. ENHANCING SCHOLARSHIP AND WRITING FOR PUBLICATION

- The Executive has undertaken to establish the publication of peer reviewed conference proceedings for the association from this year onwards. An Editorial Team to support the process has been established.
- There will be a SAJHE (South African Journal of Higher Education) special edition for the 2012 conference. It was decided that papers that were presented at SIG events during the year should also be considered for this special issue.

6. HELTASA/CHE TEACHING AWARDS

A special vote of thanks goes to the National Excellence in Teaching and Learning Awards Committee for the hard work, especially the evaluation of the portfolios. The committee was broadened in 2012 to expand representation across SA HE landscape.

For **2009**, 12 institutions participated, with 45 complete and 3 incomplete applications. The winners were announced at the 2009 conference gala dinner and each presenter gave a conference presentation in a dedicated slot. They received free registration to the conference.

For **2010**, 24 applications were received from 13 institutions. The announcement and participation of the winners at the 2010 conference followed the same pattern as 2009. For **2011**, the winners were increased from four to five and a new category was added, nine applicants were selected for commendations.

For **2012** 38 applications were received and managed via the web. There are five recipients and nine commendations.

7. SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGS)

Information on SIGs appear in the 2012 conference book, pages 12-13

8. CONCLUSION

The Executive has a proposal to honour retiring HELTASA members with lifetime membership to the association. This should include free registration to the annual conference. Members should submit names of people they know who have retired. The persons should have been members of the association for at least five years during their tenure. It should become HELTASA's practice to issue these lifetime membership awards during the annual conference.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The **financial statement** was included in the conference package and is open for discussion.

ELECTIONS/VACANCIES

Elections were held to fill up vacancies, including those that are a result of the amended constitution

Matete Madiba (Chairperson)