



## ODL COMMUNIQUÉ 7, 26 MARCH 2010

### AN OVERVIEW OF THIS WEEK'S COMMUNIQUÉ

1. Feedback from Prof Barry van Heerden (CEMS) to *ODL Task team 1: Admissions*, on the revision of the admission requirements to qualifications.
2. Feedback on the second meeting of *ODL Task Team 2: Higher Certificate*
3. An invitation to attend an information session on the proposal for a longer curriculum and course development cycle to be held in Pretoria *and* Florida.

### 1 PROGRESS REPORT REGARDING ODL TASK TEAM 1: ADMISSIONS

In an e-mail to *Task Team 1: Admissions*, Prof Barry van Heerden (CEMS) suggested that the task team seriously considers accepting the admission requirements that CEMS proposed for the whole university, perhaps with minor adjustments. This may really contribute to a long-awaited dream of having one standard set of admission requirements for the whole university. With regard to language requirements, Prof van Heerden noted that CEMS have accepted the required achievement rating of 2 for the language of tuition for admission to the Higher Certificate. However, they have proposed an achievement rating of 3 or better for the language of tuition for admission to both the Diploma and the Bachelor's degree. A change in this proposal to an achievement rating of 4 or better for the language of tuition for admission to the Bachelor's degree will be acceptable for them, but not for admission to the Diploma. In the latter instance, they would like to keep the achievement rating at a 3 or better for admission to the Diploma.

### 2 FEEDBACK ON THE SECOND MEETING OF ODL TASK TEAM 2: HIGHER CERTIFICATE HELD ON 23 MARCH

At this meeting of ODL Task Team 2, they revisited the rationale for their brief and again ensured that they understood their mandate. The ODL Implementation plan tasked this team to investigate the possibility to offer a Higher Certificate which will serve the different Colleges with an alternative access route to Advanced Certificates, Diplomas and Degrees. The task team will advise the STLSC on the feasibility of offering a Higher Certificate; the progression routes on completion of the Certificate; if feasible, a proposal for offering a general Higher Certificate or a college specific Higher Certificate and the structure/content of the Higher Certificate.

The HEQF further describes the higher certificate as follows (Government Gazette No.30353, 2007:19)

This is an entry-level higher education qualification. The qualification is primarily vocational, or industry oriented. The qualification also serves to provide students with the basic introductory knowledge, cognitive and conceptual tools and practical techniques for further higher education studies in their chosen field of study. The knowledge emphasises general principles and application. This qualification signifies that the student has attained a basic level of higher education knowledge and competence in a particular field or occupation and is capable of applying such knowledge and competence in an occupation or role in the workplace. The Higher Certificate typically includes a simulated work experience or work integrated learning (WIL) component.

The team explored the possibility and viability of offering a single or generic higher certificate as an alternative access route for students not meeting the requirements for access into diploma or degree studies. They also had a very lively discussion regarding the advantages and disadvantages of offering such a higher certificate. The team will submit their report to the STLSC and the wider Unisa community after their next meeting. Watch this space!

### **3 AN INVITATION TO AN INFORMATION SESSION ON THE PROPOSAL FOR A LONGER CURRICULUM AND COURSE DEVELOPMENT CYCLE**

The ODL Implementation plan envisages a review of the current three-year module revision cycle. A draft proposal has been presented to the STLSC of 15 March 2010. *The Rationale for a Seven Year 2nd Order CESM Directed Cycle of Curriculum and Courseware review. A draft narrative was referred to the wider Unisa community for comments.*

You are cordially invited to a general information session **in Pretoria** on **3 May 2010** from 13:30 till 15:00 in the Senate Hall and **in Florida** on **11 May** from 14:00-15:30 (venue to be announced). During these sessions the draft proposal will be discussed and the main arguments presented for scrutiny. Copies of the draft proposal is available from Ms Tshoanelo Mokoena, PA to the ODL Project at TVW 4-56, + 27 (0) 12-429 6173 (office), [mokoets@unisa.ac.za](mailto:mokoets@unisa.ac.za).

*Drafted by Dr Paul Prinsloo*

ODL Coordinator

Office of the Vice-Principal: Academic & Research, Unisa

25 March 2010

+27 (0) 12 4293683 (office), +27 (0) 823954113 (mobile), [prinsp@unisa.ac.za](mailto:prinsp@unisa.ac.za)