



ODL COMMUNIQUÉ 14, 18 MAY 2010

AN OVERVIEW OF THIS WEEK'S COMMUNIQUÉ

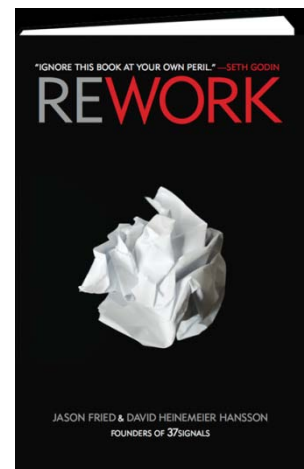
1. *Possible lessons from "Rework"*
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1 POSSIBLE LESSONS FROM "REWORK"

The book by Jason Fried and David Heinemeier Hansson, "Rework" (2010) is creating a stir in some circles. Not only are the 80 plus one-and-a-half pager chapters quick and easy reading, but the way they phrase their advice may ruffle some feathers. They contest traditional business canons and phrase their advice bluntly, and often, a bit too crude for my taste. Among their contestations are:

- Learning from mistakes is overrated. They ask: "What do you really learn from mistakes? You might learn what *not* to do again, but how valuable is that? You still don't know what you *should* do next" (page 16).
- "Workaholics aren't heroes. They don't save the day, they just use it up. The real hero is already home because she figured out a faster way to get things done" (page 26).
- No time is no excuse. "When you want something bad enough, you make the time – regardless of your other obligations. The truth is most people just don't want it bad enough" (page 40).
- If no one's upset by what you're saying, you're probably not pushing hard enough. (And you're probably boring, too)" (page 43).
- "When you start anything new, there are forces pulling you in a variety of directions. There's stuff you *could* do, the stuff you *want* to do, and the stuff you *have* to do. The stuff you *have* to do is where you should begin. Start at the epicentre" (page 72).
- "The longer it [a [plan] takes to develop, the less likely it is to launch" (page 78).
- "The menus at failing restaurants offer too many dishes. The owners think making every dish under the sun will broaden the appeal of the restaurant. Instead it makes for crappy food... Improving the current menu doesn't come first. Trimming down comes first. Then he polishes what's left" (page 83).

Maybe Unisa and the ODL Task teams in particular, should consider some of these points?



2 AN OVERVIEW OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STLSC MEETING OF 10 MAY

An *overview* of the recommendations taken by the **STLSC** meeting of 10 May is available on the Library's Institutional Repository (<http://uir.unisa.ac.za/handle/10500/3072>). At the STLSC meeting the various ODL Task teams submitted recommendations. After deliberations, the recommendations were either approved, or amended, or referred back to the task team. A number of *additional* recommendations were approved by the STLSC for referral to the Senate meeting of 2 June. The table therefore provides an overview of the issue and the recommendations that the **STLSC** approved with regard to the issue. Where the STLSC approved an amended version of a recommendation, the table reflects the amended version as approved by the STLSC.

The recommendations of the different ODL task teams will now serve at the Senate meeting of June 2010. There will be a meeting with all the ODL convenors on **24 May** to discuss the way forward.

3 SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

One of the STLSC recommendations is the establishment of a small working team to look at the current Unisa policy on Intellectual Property and how it provides guidance to academics providing support (and content) to students in various social networking sites. How does Unisa's policy regarding intellectual property impact on, for example, the fact that academics upload podcasts or videos on YouTube, Facebook, etc?

Should you have specific expertise in this field, or have a passion to contribute towards interrogating the issue, please send your name to me (prinsp@unisa.ac.za)? While we are still awaiting the approval of the STLSC recommendation by Senate, we can win some time by getting the names of interested people.

4 ODL REPOSITORY

All the ODL task team reports, the overview of the recommendations of the STLSC and other ODL documents are available on the Unisa Library's Institutional Repository at <http://uir.unisa.ac.za/handle/10500/3072>. The repository is updated on a regular basis and if you register on the repository, you will get notifications of any new uploads.

5 COMMENTING ON THE ODL COMMUNIQUÉS

You are also most welcome to comment on this (and previous) ODL Communiqués on the Unisa Staff website. On the right hand side of the Unisa Staff website, you will see a section titled “Important links” under which you must then click on “Blogs”. On the blog page, you will notice two links namely “E-connect” and “Open Distance Learning”. If you follow the latter you will be able to read and comment on the ODL Communiqués.

Thanks again to everyone who responds to the ODL Communiqués, whether in public or in private.

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