



SAAIR 2016: FEEDBACK

Presentations

Positive

- Presentation opened up an interesting conversation.
- Presenter made eye-contact and engaged with the audience.
- Presenters were enthusiastic and the slides were interesting.
- The message was powerful.
- The presentation was contextual.
- Presenter was able to unpack the content and made it relevant to the South-African HE landscape.
- Presenter provides a clear picture of what might be the impact of throughput in HE.
- Presenter knows the area very well.
- Very insightful – good delivery.
- Very informative and excellent presentation. Well researched and well presented.
- Contextualisation; excellent contribution; enriched data. Explained complex concepts in an easy to understand way. Good theoretical background with practical application. Appropriate time very powerful.
- The presentation is very relevant to a SA environment – specifically within the environment of evidence-based decision making. Excellent response to questions from audience. Very knowledgeable on the topic. Slides informative and appropriate. Good interaction with audience.
- Very good!
- Excellent presentation and content. Good problem statement and explanation. Points to a crucial gap in IR – bringing data together.
- A good overview of the project and the project management approach. Especially encouraging to see young talent being developed.
- Interesting.
- The presentation is very relevant – relevant nationally. Presentation was good and content was informative. Good interaction with audience.
- Introduction and positioning is well done. Current challenges were captured.
- Key-analytics were well presented, graphics clearly explained and thoroughly discussed.
- Good interaction with audience.
- Good presentation and insightful information. Exploratory study with potential for further research. Slides were clear and the layout good. Results were well presented.
- Hope to see this at future conferences.
- The content of the presentation speaks to the abstract provided.
- Great and important research – well done.
- Very good and interesting presentation – contextualisation was excellent and well-framed.
- Inputs from the floor was well-fielded and discussion sufficient.
- Absolute fantastic presentation. Student focused research enables us to get a closer look into the day to day life of our students.
- Excellent – the presenter posed critical questions without only reflecting on data.
- Got insightful info on surveys and what to expect from students.
- Good discussion points.
- The presenter is clearly passionate in what she is doing.
- Eye-opener.
- Outstanding! Controversial strong literature-referenced presentation, reminding us of all the human elements behind the data.
- Excellent, thought-provoking and a very useful and interesting approach to analyse current happenings on campus. Can be used to tell the story and explain critical aspects.

- A brilliant and provocative talk. Content very appropriate even though very philosophical.
- Well planned presentation.
- A good, critical reflection and very current – relevant to what is happening in HE.
- Great information sharing. Interesting overview of project.
- Presenter shows great promise with regard to knowledge of topic and presentation skills. The interactive approach was effective.
- Good visuals.
- Interesting perspectives.
- The presentation is relevant to what is happening at institutions.
- Presentation provides the content promised in the abstract and it attends to a big challenge. The content was very scientific and had a capacity building component.
- Very knowledgeable, very confident and well-versed presenter! Impressive!
- Speaker successfully engaged with audience.
- Lots to learn.
- Good sharing of practice and attempt to open discussion for idea generation/collaboration.
- Speakers were very relaxed.
- Very interesting presentation of new tools – great sharing of approaches to integration and transparency through use of technology.

Negative

- Had problems with responding to questions.
- Not well informed or researched.
- Unfortunately there was too much reading from the slides. The presenter talks fast and it was difficult to hear what was being said.
- I got a bit confused in-between with the data.
- What is the motivation for this project?
- The speaker should be careful for constantly searching for correct words and saying: “Where was I”.
- Powerful message but delivery was lacking.
- Unsure whether the content was appropriate for a group that mostly consist of statisticians.
- Research inconclusive.
- Presentation skills need developing. Important study but delivery was not so good.
- Discussion during presentation of slides was poor and very difficult to understand.
- The swapping of presenters took much time.
- Some text slides are not professional.
- Presenter did not always speak clearly.
- Examples not specific to IR context and were too long.
- Presenter is too dependent on the slides – slides are too detailed.
- Results are well presented but need elaboration on impact/implications and decisions.
- The style of communication is restrictive.
- The data used was very old. No new contribution.
- Limited time for a poster presentation.
- Presenter should use the microphone.
- Presentation needed more substance. No compelling argument.
- The session did not touch on the detail of how best practices are shared.
- It was very difficult to compare apples with apples.
- Very difficult to evaluate this against the general outline of the other presentations. Each institution could report on their initiatives. Panel presentations maybe have a pre-determined format.
- Some aspects will have to be elaborated on for an international audience.
- Presentation is not really suitable for this conference and the research as it is not IR but personal research. The quality of the abstract is very poor and it has not been language edited. The presenter did not consider ethical issues and spoke too much of other things...
- Poster did not provide enough information to stand on its own. It would be good to encourage more posters.
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General Evaluation

Communication before and on the conference

- Up-to-date info.
- Always updated on everything about the workshop and conference through sms and e-mail.
- Sms's very effective!!
- Excellent from first announcements to all the messages received during the conference.
- So good – it could become too much!

Negative:

- Before registration a bit difficult to get more info and data.

Conference Documentation

- Good documentation.
- Everything is documented accordingly.
- Everything was clear and sent on time.
- Excellent at various levels.

Networking Opportunity

- Meeting with people from all sorts of IR corners.
- The Cocktails- and Gala dinner provided great opportunity for networking.
- This is the most welcoming organisation I have ever joined. Networking and interaction were the order of the proceedings.
- Fantastic!
- Enough networking opportunities. Participants were open to getting to know each other. Nice group.

Negative:

- No specific networking opportunities or time was set aside.
- Talks usually went into the tea- and lunch times which limited networking.

Suitability of the Venue

- Auditorium was [perhaps] a bit small for some presentations but very good and audible.
- The guiding papers to the venues really helped – I generally struggle with finding my way but never got lost.
- The sound etc. was very good.

Negative:

- Perhaps somewhat cramped at times – more seats are required.
- All good except the facility provided during the meals did not encourage good networking or enough places to sit.
- The venue was suitable but was a bit smaller as compared to the attendees' numbers.
- Room 251 was OK but the chairs were uncomfortable.

General Logistics

- Everything was well organised.
- Everything was really amending. The staff was nice and welcoming and patient with us. Very pleasant people.
- Excellent. The best SAAIR Annual Conference ever. Well done Jannie, Johanna, Tommy and team.
- Set an extremely high standard.
- Team worked very very hard – thank you!

Programme

- Very clear and detailed. Well organised and written and very easy to follow.
- Good balance in programme between to notch keynotes and other presentations.
- Book a great achievement for SAAIR.
- Good variety. I did not attend one bad presentation.
- This was a difficult theme and to make the paper fit into sessions must have been challenging. It worked very well. Keynotes were superb – idea to try and tweet and stream some of this in future.

Negative:

- Should have allowed more time for discussion of common problems, processes or ways of working.
- It can always improve. There were a lot of great presentations but there is room for improvement.

Keynote speakers

- High quality keynote speakers. Huge appreciation that Prof Habib drove to Potch and made a presentation at SAAIR.
- Thank you – the speakers were excellent.
- Adam Habib and Linda Brown – excellent!
- Keynote speakers were on point and addressed relevant and current issues.
- Excellent – know how to unpack their areas.
- The keynote speakers were excellent and topical. The international perspective is always welcome.
- Absolutely loved Prof Kgwadi's presentation.
- Keynote speakers had a lot of wisdom to share and I appreciate the sharing of the information.
- Really inspiring. Grateful for the wisdom that were shared.
- Fantastic, outstanding, excellent! Speakers were experts and very relevant. Really well done!
- I learned a lot from the keynote speakers; they were perfect for the conference theme.
- Very interesting.
- We need many keynote speakers around Africa so that we can engage with them to come up with the solution of our education, as we are on the same level with them.
- I was really inspired by the Keynote speeches from invited VC's.
- The keynote speakers added to the success of the conference.
- All were good.

Additional Events

- Got to see Potch and had great entertainment.
- Amazing! It was my first year so I really enjoyed the bus tour guide and rich history base here. I absolutely love Chris Windell – he is hilarious. The music was awesome and I enjoyed the wine.
- Full marks!
- Gala dinner, singers, MC, venue: great!
- These events were all really excellent and we were really spoiled at the Gala dinner in terms of venue, entertainment, talks and the food. Really, really well done!!
- These were great opportunity for networking.
- Arrangements were excellent for all!! Local focus was great.
- The Gala was excellent! Good food, music and company – loved it!

Negative:

- Pity that the Vredefort guy brought in fundamentalist religious ideas – hugely problematic.

Catering

- On point!
- Excellent.
- Daytime catering was OK.
- The food was great.
- Thank you for all the extra kilos!
- Took care exceptionally well of various dietary requirements.
- Good variety and tasteful.
- Good.
- Great.

Negative:

- Lunch on Tuesday was not very nice. Lack of variety, salad or vegetables.

Cost of Conference

- Good value for money.
- I thought it was expensive until I understood the funding structure of the organization.
- Good.

Overall

Positive:

- Let's just say you have raised the standard very high – lots of pressure for the next hosting institution.
- Tommy was excellent!
- The conference is highly organised.
- Co-ordinators know their roles.
- Registrations – no hassles.
- Breakaway session – smooth.
- Follow-up on members superb.
- The conference provided a valuable learning and networking opportunity in troubled times.
- I really need to say thank you to NWU for such a warm stay. You guys are really organised and I really appreciated this. I loved staying at the Puk Sports Village, it's beautiful, quiet and the service from staff is also really amazing.
- Really good conference. Happy about my association with SAAIR.
- Great conference.
- The conference was very informative and some of the presentations were thought provoking and gave me a lot to take back to my university. It was well organised and I'm looking forward to more SAAIR events.
- Thank you for an excellent conference – well organised to the finest detail.
- Friendly. Passionate. Well done to Jannie, Tommy, Karin, Johanna and the rest of the team.
- Everything in place.
- Congrats to Jannie, Johanna, Tommy and assistants.
- Excellent conference in terms of arrangements, content and interaction.
- Best organised SAAIR I've attended thus far!!
- Great conference, great organisation. Can be expanded to include other sectors in HE.
#Silos must fall? – New theme for a conference perhaps?

Negative:

- The conference may have missed an opportunity to incorporate social media to facilitate communication between delegates and/or the greater public; an odd gap given the extensive use of hash tags in paper titles.
- Evaluations must be done on-line!

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