

# SAAIR NEWSLETTER

RETHINKING UNIVERSITY ENGAGEMENT IN AFRICA

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- To advance research and analysis leading to the production of improved management information for understanding, planning, management, and operation of higher educational institutions and agencies.
- To encourage the development and application of appropriate methodologies and techniques from many disciplines to further such research, analysis, and planning.
- To encourage the collection, interpretation, exchange, and dissemination of information with respect to higher education and its institutions.
- To further the professional development and training of individuals engaged in institutional research and analysis or interested in its utilization in planning, management, and resource allocation and in the improvement of higher education.



## SAAIR VISION

The Southern African Association for Institutional Research (SAAIR) is a dynamic association with the vision of promoting institutional research, training and development, and the exchange of information in the context of an effective Institutional Research unit in each institution of higher education.

<http://www.saair-web.co.za>

## MEMBERSHIP

We have approximately 378 members from some 35 different institutions mainly from South Africa, Namibia and Botswana.

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## WHAT WAS ON THE AGENDA? HEMIS WORKSHOP

- Higher Education – the big picture (Mr Herman Visser, Unisa)
- Fundamental Concepts of qualifications and courses (Mr Herman Visser, Unisa)
- Fundamental aspects of Student reporting (Mr Neels Bezuidenhout, Unisa)
- Fundamental aspects of Staff reporting (Ms Lynne Angus, Rhodes University)
- Fundamental aspects of Space reporting (Mr Jacques Botha, University of the Free State)

## 2017 HEMIS WORKSHOP AND HEMIS INSTITUTE

### ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

The organizing team at University of the Free State consisted of Jacques Botha, Annemari Eksteen and Jacqueline Pretorius. Herman Visser assisted with the programme and budget, as well as organizing presenters of this event. This event was a huge success and very positive feedback was received.

A total of 95 delegates registered and attended the Foundations of HEMIS Workshop and HEMIS Institute (including presenters).

### 2017 HEMIS WORKSHOP AND HEMIS INSTITUTE

The Foundations of HEMIS Workshop and HEMIS Institute was held on 2 to 4 August 2017 at Monte Bello Estate in Bloemfontein and hosted by University of the Free State.

### HEMIS INSTITUTE

- Implementation of HEQSF aligned programmes (Prof Kethamonie Naidoo, CHE)
- Finalisation of the PQM and reporting (Ms Hannelie van Rensburg, DHET)
- Implementation and alignment of qualifications and courses: Practical issues at institutions (Mr Leon Eygelaar, Stellenbosch University)
- The impact of the HEQSF on HEMIS reports (Mr Neels Bezuidenhout, Unisa)
- Foundation provision (Ms Jean Skene, DHET)
- Enrolment planning (Ms Jean Skene and Ms Hannelie van Rensburg, DHET)
- Vital Stats and data quality (Mr Michael Gordon, CHE)
- Update on Funding Review Status (Ms Jean Skene, DHET)
- And much more.

# SAAIR QUALITY FORUM 2017

**THEME: SHORT COURSES, SHORT LEARNING PROGRAMMES & CONTINUING EDUCATION - BEST PRACTICES, QUALITY AND THE WAY FORWARD.**

The Quality Forum was held on 30 and 31 August 2017 at the Kingsway Campus of the University of Johannesburg.



## ATTENDANCE

A total of 99 delegates registered and attended the Quality Forum (including presenters).

## ORGANISER

Dr Jannie Jacobsz from North-West University was the main organizer, with help from Ms Ina Pretorius of University of Johannesburg. This event was a huge success and very positive feedback was received.

## WHAT WAS ON THE AGENDA?

- Continuing Education in South Africa – an ill-defined priority? (Christa North, NWU)
- A QCTO Perspective (Sifiso Mkhonza, QCTO)
- A SAQA Perspective (Faith Nyaka, SAQA)
- Private Higher Education Perspective (Gloria Castrillon, Milpark)
- Case Study of UP (Hermien Dorfling, UP)
- Discussion on the guidelines for good practice 1 (Christa North, NWU)
- SLP's at UJ (Dragana Weistra, UJ)
- Case Study of Wits (Johan Swanepoel and Kamal Bhagwandas Jogibhai, Wits)
- Demonstration of a system designed for managing continuing education (Christa North, NWU)
- Reporting & Monitoring of SLPs (Glen Barnes, IDSC and Annamarie Meyer, UJ)
- Conclusions and the way forward – Christa North (NWU) and Freda Daniels (UWC)





## LEARNER ANALYTICS INSTITUTE (LAI) 2017

### THE PURPOSE OF THE SAAIR LA INSTITUTE

To develop the ability of practitioners in the field of learner analytics and institutional research to collect and use student data from various sources to inform evidence-based decisions on interventions aimed at the improvement of student success at HE institutions. Secondly, to create and establish networks and discussion groups across the higher education sector regarding the various related activities.



### TARGET AUDIENCE

- IR practitioners,
- Higher Education researchers

### 2017 LEARNER ANALYTICS INSTITUTE

This LAI was hosted by the University of Pretoria on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September. There were 23 delegates in attendance from 12 different institutions across the country.

### WHAT WAS ON THE AGENDA?

Most HE institutions are moving towards data-driven decision-making in support of their interventions aimed at improving student success. This one-day intensive workshop in learner analytics provided delegates with:

- practical skills in Excel and,
- Tableau Software using higher education data

### Themes for the workshop included:

- Problem identification and evaluation frameworks
- Pre-processing and data analysis (data integrity)
- Creating data driven dashboards with Tableau Software and PowerBI (reporting visualization)
- Creating an evaluative design through data analysis

The workshop was designed to be interactive and to engage participants in learning about Excel tools and data visualisation to apply in learner analytics with higher education data. See link below for full presentation:

<http://www.saairesearch.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/LA-workshop-2017.pdf>

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### SAAIR/AIR DATA AND DECISIONS ACADEMY

The Data and Decisions Academy is a series of online, self-paced courses designed for institutional research (IR) professionals. The courses will help you to enrich your tactical or operational intelligence analyses – which can be focused on specific targets or individuals and support the day-to-day activities of operational line units. The courses will also help you develop nuanced trends and future development analyses skills in different discipline areas as aligned to the strategic objectives of your institution.



## RESOURCES FOR INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCHERS

SAAIR is involved in a number of projects/initiatives to promote capacity development in the Higher Education sector in Southern Africa. The publication below was a strategic SAAIR Exco project, and drew largely on the SAAIR membership for the authors. *Some recent projects are listed here:*

### INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH IN SOUTH AFRICAN HIGHER EDUCATION: INTERSECTING CONTEXTS AND PRACTICES

This book by Botha, J. and Muller, N. (eds). 2016. Institutional Research in South African Higher Education: intersecting contexts and practices. Stellenbosch: SunMedia, provides a thorough overview of Institutional Research (IR)—i.e. applied higher education research undertaken within universities—in South Africa. It is a collection of essays focusing on the character and institutional setting of IR; how IR is embedded into the mechanisms of steering, shaping and reforming higher education; and what the major results were of IR in select thematic areas. The book is a valuable resource for higher education researchers and social researchers in South Africa interested in higher education.

### BUILDING CAPACITY IN INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND DECISION SUPPORT IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Webber, K. (ed). 2018. Building capacity in Institutional Research and decision support in Higher Education. It is part of the Knowledge Studies in Higher Education series, published by Springer. More details at <http://www.springer.com/gb/book/9783319711614>. This book examines the relevant roles, skills and knowledge needed to build the institutional research capacity across the higher education sector globally. The information contained herein will inform IR practitioners, senior level institution officials, and higher education scholars. With a focus on building the capacity of the IR profession, this book's primary audiences include senior leaders who wish to introduce or strengthen their understanding for effective decision support and staff

## SAAIR UPCOMING EVENTS 2018 - SAVE THE DATES!

- **Learner Analytics Foundations & Institute 2018**, Date and Venue to be **confirmed**.
- **Quality Forum 2018**, planned for 5 and 6 July 2018, to be hosted by University of the Western Cape (UWC), Cape Town. **Venue to be confirmed**.
- **HEMIS Foundations & Institute 2018**, planned for 14 to 16 August and will be hosted by Stellenbosch University at the Lord Charles Hotel in Somerset West.
- **IR Institute 2018**, planned for September and to be hosted by University of Cape Town and University of the Western Cape. Exact dates and venue to be confirmed.
- **The 25th Annual SAAIR Conference** is scheduled to take place from 12 to 15 November and will be hosted by Durban University of Technology in Durban.

## MEET SAAIR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EXCO)



Juan-Claude Lemmens  
President



Nicky Muller  
Vice-President



Herman Visser  
Treasurer



Juanita Frans  
EXCO Member - 2017  
Conference Chair



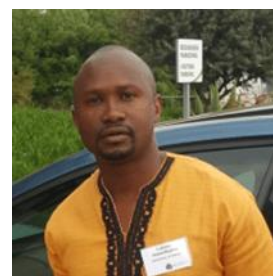
Jan Botha  
EXCO Member



Ntsundeni Mapatagane  
EXCO Member



Glen Barnes  
EXCO Member



Lufuno Netshifhefhe  
EXCO Member



Elizabeth Archer  
(Co-opted Member)



Carin Strydom  
Administrator