

Quality Promotions & Assurance (QPA) And The University Teaching & Learning Office (UTLO)

Cordially invites you to a Seminar with

Dr Francois Strydom

Director: Centre for Teaching and Learning,
University of the Free State

&

Ms Lana Swart,

Coordinator: National Student Engagement Project,
University of the Free State

on

Student Engagement:

Enhancing the student experience through actionable data

DATE: Tuesday, 24 June 2014

TIME: 14h00 – 16h00

VENUE: Unite Building, Howard College Campus

RSVP Essential LIMITED SEATS AVAILABLE

To: Silindile Mchunu

Tel: (031) 260 3002

Email: utlo@ukzn.ac.za

Subject: SASSE Seminar

Student Engagement: Enhancing the student experience through actionable data



Dr Francois Strydom

Ms Lana Swart



Dr Francois Strydom is currently the Director: Academic of the Centre for Teaching and Learning at the University of the Free State. He has been the project leader of the South African Survey of Student Engagement (SASSE) that was conducted for the Council of Higher Education among 11 higher education institutions in the country. Dr Strydom has collaborated on various higher education initiatives related to access and success with higher education consortiums and Higher Education South Africa (HESA). He is the recipient of various research awards and has published several articles focused on higher education issues. He received his D.Phil in Psychology from Oxford University, which he attended as a Rhodes Scholar. In addition to his research he is involved in institutional initiatives to improve the undergraduate curriculum, the enhancement of teaching and learning, increasing academic support for at risk-students as well as improving the quality of academic advising.

Ms Lana Swart obtained her B.Com Law degree in 2008 and Honours degree in Applied Econometrics in 2009, from the UFS. She is currently doing her Master's degree in Higher Education at the UFS. In terms of research, Lana has worked on the student engagement projects within the university since late 2010. She is the coordinator and researcher for the national student engagement project. Lana has tutored in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences (Economics) at the UFS from 2008 until 2010, and was the facilitator of the online module during 2010. Lana was also a facilitator in the UFS101 module during the pilot year in 2011.

In this Seminar, we focus on the use of student engagement data to understand the student experience, an international trend in institutional research. Student engagement data informs not only the enhancement of the student experience but also facilitates the development of institutional research. The South African Survey of Student engagement (SASSE) and related measures have been used to measure the quality of teaching and learning and to provide institutions with actionable data that can be used to promote student success since 2006. In 2012 the SASSE and related measures were reviewed and re-aligned to create deeply contextualised and globally benchmarked instruments to collect information at both the institutional and the module/course level. The presentation will show how the refreshed student engagement measures can be used to collect rich data at the institutional level as well as at the module/course level. The combination of the institutional and module/course level measures not only informs organisational intelligence at an institutional research level, but creates a way for staff developers to intervene in high risk modules/courses, providing a theoretically informed link between interventions, thus enhancing the quality teaching and learning to promote student success at the institutional level.