



Terms of Reference for the Rhodes University Task Team on the future of the name of the University within the context of transformation imperatives of the University

A. Guiding Principles:

1. The founding provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and the Bill of Rights should form the cornerstone of this process.
2. No constituency should be privileged above another, in the sense that all should be given a fair and equitable hearing.
3. The process should be demonstrably transparent and fair.
4. The process should be inclusive and informed.
5. There should be freedom of speech and respect for other people's views.

B. Suggested composition of RU Task Team:

1. Senior Academic from outside Rhodes University;
2. A retired VC or DVC who has no ties with Rhodes University;
3. An individual with knowledge of the Law and of the Constitution;
4. An individual with a financial background;
5. An administrator/secretariat to assist the committee.

The members of the Task Team should have impeccable credentials that command respect from all stakeholders. No individual in the Task Team should have an interest in the outcome. No member of the team should be a high profile politician and ideally not an active politician. Each member of the Task Team should have a clear function to fulfil/knowledge to contribute to the task at hand.

The Task Team members can co-opt other members as guided by these stipulations.

C. Scope of RU Task Team's work:

1. The Task Team should consider the issue of the future of the name of the University within the broader context of transformation at Rhodes University. In particular, it should consider the issue of the name change within the existing context of transformation goals and challenges as framed, in the following, non-exhaustive, list of documents and policies that should be made available to the Task Team:
 - Rhodes University Vision and Mission Statement, 2001
 - Visual Representation, Arts and Culture Task Team 's final report to Senate, 2015
 - Rhodes University Institutional Culture Survey, 2015.
 - Rhodes University Institutional Transformation Plan, 2015.
 - Rhodes University Institutional Development Plan, in preparation.
 - Transformation Barometer for South African Higher Education, 2015.
 - Republic of South Africa (1998). Higher Education Act (Act number 101). Parliament of South Africa: Pretoria.
 - White Paper on Post-Secondary Education, 2013.

2. Research on broad impact of name change. This may include but not be limited to financial impact.
3. Research into the history of the name change proposition and into other background factors that will help frame the question to be put to the RU constituency.
4. Broad consultation on the name change question with all stakeholders.
The stakeholders consulted should include Alumni, Students, Staff, Council, Convocation, Board of Governors, Broader Grahamstown Community, Donors.
5. All stakeholders should be presented with the outcome of the research that will have been undertaken prior to or during the consultation engagements.

D. Key Processes to be followed

1. The Task Team shall design its own process.
2. In designing this process, expectations of the various stakeholders should be managed.
3. The process must be a genuine engagement and canvassing of views. From this, advice should be distilled and recommendations made to the Institutional Forum on the issue of transformation, including the future of the name of the University.

E. Desired Outcome

The Task Team shall hear all the constituencies and provide a recommendation regarding decisions that need to be taken in relation to transformation and the future of the name of the University. The Task Team needs to provide the reasons supporting this recommendation.

F. Time frames:

1. The whole consultation process and final recommendations should take no longer than 18 months from the time of finalisation of the composition of the Task Team.
2. The RU Task Team will report to the Institutional Forum on a quarterly basis.

As updated following by Council's approval on 22 September 2015