

Research Group Dialogue Notes.

I. Notes on Recommendations made at the seminar.

A. Recommendations for research culture transformation

1. We need to undertake research that speaks to the needs of the country, region and continent and the world. (How much of our research speaks to the needs of the ordinary man on the street?) Research for the public good. Why does Grahamstown have a problem with the quality of drinking water when there is a university in Grahamstown?
2. We need to establish science research centres that will conduct research that will contribute to alleviating societal ills. These centres need to focus on product development.
3. While addressing local issues our research has to be aligned to global goals e.g. Millenium development goals.
4. We need to increase the volume of interdisciplinary research E.g. if we consider Health to be a human right what kind of questions will we ask? And how many disciplines can work together in interdisciplinary projects?
5. Learn to start asking questions from different angles e.g. as a Pharmacist you can ask yourself how do I use my knowledge to contribute to the prevention of ill health?.
6. Research methods where dialoguing with subjects rather than extracting from subjects should be used.
7. Knowledge groups that can co-publish should be established.
8. The levels of coloniality in the curriculum we teach is exacerbated by lack of research into African formations, productions and concerns. It is particularly important that the precolonial is researched. This will give Africans a standing and a foundation from which to expand their knowledge production in the global sphere. Academics should teach what they conduct research in. An increase in Africa centred research will decrease the need to centre other continents in our curriculum.
9. The areas of research by RU academics and therefore by students need to be broadened.
10. The Editorial policy of international journals controls the kind of knowledge that is produced about Africa. Institutions, supported by government, should create publishing spaces for academics. Government should increase funding for publishing in South Africa.
11. There needs to be a multi-pronged battle...increase the volume of quality research that is published by local publishing houses and increase the volume of publications in international journals.
12. The NRF research funding model should be changed. The three year limit is constraining.
13. Other government departments should also fund research that will contribute to the development of the country. Departments such as the Department of Arts and Culture, Energy, Water ect.
14. Academics should in the first instance develop the research confidence of their students. Promote the development of students as knowledge producers.
15. Students should be enabled to write and research in a language that they are comfortable in. In the Eastern Cape the language that should be developed for academic purposes is

isiXhosa. This necessitates the transformation of staff structure. Bilingual English and isiXhosa staff are necessary to have.

B. About the summit Event

1. Relevant Departments should be invited to the Summit to listen to recommendations and contribute to the research debate.
2. A team that will be responsible for ensuring that recommendations adopted are implemented should be formed. (A transformation summit recommendations monitoring and evaluation team)

II. Broad and open questions for survey.

1. In your opinion what would characterize research culture and practice in a transformed South African Higher Education Institution?
2. Are you contributing towards the realization of the kind of research culture that you have just described?
3. If you are, please detail how you are contributing towards this culture.
4. If you are not, please detail what the obstacles preventing you from contributing towards the development of this culture are.
5. How can the institution realise the goal of developing a culture of research which can be described as transformed?
6. How do you broadly understand the imperative of South African higher education transformation?