

In This Issue

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On Tuesday, 21 April 2015 the CUT Research and Development unit and Faculty Research Managers travelled to the CUT Welkom campus where they presented a workshop for post graduate students. The workshop explained the research process at CUT. Dr Makola, Welkom Campus Director, expressed a warm welcome to workshop presenters and participants.

The Dean of Research and Innovation engaged with his unit and consequently decided with Dr Makola that a need existed to host similar workshops at the Welkom Campus. Therefore this workshop was the first of many research workshops which will be held at the CUT Welkom campus.

Prof Lategan emphasised two important things; firstly, research should have impact, secondly research should be regionally responsive but internationally competitive. He encouraged participants to know the two most important journals in their fields; and to know influential scholars in their field. And that they should realise that research problems should close the gap. The scholarly community seemingly forget about this important factor, sometimes.

During Dr Malebo's presentation, she explained the method of personal reflection to encourage participants. There is a difference between knowledge "that" and knowledge "how". Dr Malebo demonstrated to participants "how" she managed to do her research under challenging circumstances. She further elaborated that one of the lessons she learnt is that sometimes things do not go according to plan, therefore researchers should be versatile. And that when they look for a mentor they should look for someone with a passion for science, someone with a passion for what they do.

Prof Chipunza emphasised the importance of growing our one's own timber. This can be achieved by working in multidisciplinary teams. He also mentioned that practice makes perfect, thus he encouraged participants to make use of the INTERIM to obtain some experience in publishing research papers.

Dr Mhlolo addressed the audience about the importance of presenting a convincing argument and the need to have an inquisitive mind. That we should not accept things at face value but we should probe them. This will allow for a convincing argument. He stated that when concluding write-ups, researchers should always leave the reader with something to take home, something to stimulate their thoughts.

Ms Zenobia Louw presented a wonderful video on the perception of time. She encouraged participants not to give up when applying for funding. She presented the steps to follow when applying for external funding. She emphasised that having a research proposal or plan is very important. She stressed the importance of studying the funding guidelines of each call, in order to know what is expected.

Mr Sehlabaka Motsie talked about support available to postgraduate students during their postgraduate studies such as, funding, resolving tension between students and supervisors. He reported that there are supportive facilities for postgraduate students such as the study cubicles in the student academic support centre reserved. He mentioned that mentors are also available to support postgraduate students.

Dr Van Der Walt talked about the importance of teamwork in the postgraduate environment. He mentioned that there are advantages to peer support such as, assessment of written work, as well as emotional support.

Mr Dora Ackerman spoke about the WWW of LIC research support; the WHERE (training facilities, printing, Wi-Fi), the WHAT (Library webpage), the WHO (where to find researchers).

Ms Edith Sempe presented last and stressed that our research should have integrity. It should be professional (honest, accurate, efficient and objective). The researchers should maintain a high standard professionalism at all times.
Compiled by Dr Oupa Makola





RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Newsletter

Upcoming Events

June

- 12 Research and Development Workshop

Foreword from the Dean

It was a wonderful opportunity to visit our Welkom campus on 21 April and to present a workshop on “The research process” with staff and colleagues. It was exciting to see so many people who expressed their interest to grow their research profile. Apart from the very informative discussions on various aspects of the research process (reported in this newsletter) I also made the following observations:

Research is an ongoing journey. The more we learn, the better research questions we can ask. This leads in return to quality research with a higher impact.

We need role models and success stories. Other researchers’ experiences assist to guide us in the research process. Research is a process starting with a problem, analysis, evidence and conclusions. True research is not to repeat what we already know but to grow our existing knowledge basis. Research results need to be placed in the public domain – either through presentations and / or publications.

No research can do without funding. To our advantage is the high number of opportunities to apply for funding.

Prof Laetus O.K. Lategan