



## 1. Universal access and design in Higher education for people with Disability, 30th August 2016

One of the main functions of the Disability Services within the Social Justice and Transformation (SJT) Unit at VUT, is to raise awareness about Disability in all the VUT Satellite Campuses. A public lecture on universal design for learning and universal access in Higher Education was held on 30th August 2016 at the Desmond Tutu Hall (Foyer). The Lecture was presented by Dr Charity Ndereya from the University of the Free State and Prof Mugundi M'rithaa from the Cape Peninsula University of Technology. Dr Ndereya in her lecture she emphasised that Universal Design Learning (UDN) in the Institution of Higher Learning is very important, because it won't benefit students with disability only but all students. Sensory Solutions- a company that provides assistive devices for students with disabilities, was also part of the event. Their role was to raise awareness about available products that can assist people with disabilities at work and academically and event was well attended.

## 2. How to support students with hearing impairment and Learning impairment and learning Disabilities.

This Dialogue was held on the 31st August 2016 at the Social Justice and Transformation (SJT) Unit- Boardroom. It was presented by Dr Anlia Pretorius from Wits University. It was in the main attended by VUT internal stakeholders such as: Financial Aid Office, Centre of Academic Development and Student Counselling Services. Dr Pretorius explained that there are few ways to render Support to student with learning disabilities, this will depend on the type of learning disabilities. These students just to mention a few ways they can be supported ,it may be through -Concession such as extra time during exams scribes, Accessible formats such as Audio or electronic. She further emphasised that it is difficult to identify students with learning disabilities because learning disability is not visible.

## 4. Creative report writing Workshop, by Mrs Anne Naidu, 17th September 2016.

From late 2015 until the end of 2016, Social Justice and Transformation, has been working along with a group of Second Year Public Relations Students 2016 (Task Team) whom had been assisting the Unit in terms of Marketing the Department internally on Campus also Marketing VUT externally. On Saturday the 17th of September 2016, the PR team attended a workshop/writing seminar with Mrs. Anne Naidu. Mrs. Naidu. She was packed and brought her all to the table, her years of experience and love for journalism. Mrs. Naidu taught them how to approach the publication in terms of writing style and language style they should use. They were also taught that they should use a language that students will understand and be easy for them to read. The workshop was very successful as Mrs Naidu even asked some of the students to submit their articles to her

to publish it on the various already existing publications. The feedback from the students was very positive as Mrs Naidu was appreciated for being present.



## 5. Visit to Lebohang Disability Home, 31 August 2016

Not only does Social Justice and Transformation (SJT), care about the wellbeing of the VUT staff Members and Students-but also the VUT Community at large is also considered. On a Saturday Morning of the 24th September 2016, SJT and the Second Year Public Relations (2016) Task Team, came together to Spend a day at a Lebohang Disability Home in Zone 10 Ext 1 SEBOKENG. People with disabilities, young and old, especially those who live in rural areas where essential services are often limited or non-existent face difficulties seldom encountered in urban areas, such as; access to housing, transportation, employment, educational programs, and specialized healthcare. It is said that where there is a will there is a way. In most cases besides the assistance of the Government -the Communities can help people with disabilities by looking for ways to partner and creatively use limited resources to provided needed services. The Purpose of this visit for the 2016 Second Year PR students and SJT was to spend the whole day with the Children at their home, playing games and hosting a braai for them including providing them with some of the essential resources they are in need of on regularly basis. These children stay at this home, all year around and hardly get visitors- event from their immediate family. Their home facilities also need some serious upgrading, hence P.R Students (2016) and SJT tried to assist where they possibly could. The day was well spent at the home, the children were cheerful and appreciative of our visit.



### 6. Roadshow visits to VUT Satellite Campuses, October 2016.

Social Justice and Transformation (SJT) Unit, it annually conduct Satellite visit to VUT Campuses, this year 2016 the visits were scheduled as follows ; In Upington (19- 21 October), Secunda (26- 27 October) and Daveyton ( 28 October). These roadshow events allow and create face-to-face relationships with Satellite Campuses. These events give the Main Campus VUT staff Members the opportunity to engage with prospects they might not otherwise engage with side from providing information regarding the offering. The road show allows the company the opportunity to answer questions that may be posed by sceptics' in the institution. It provides a forum where the institution can communicate directly with its stakeholders to address any potential concerns. These roadshows are an opportunity to interact with staff in all VUT campuses, to bring awareness about the role of the Social Justice and Transformation Unit, talk about the activities of the directorate as well as listen to transformation related challenges that the staff and students might be grappling with. In 2016 our Roadshows were a bit different to the ones in the previous years, as SJT was joined alongside by the following Internal Stakeholders Departments –such as: Human Resource, Research Dept., and Campus Clinic including the Alumni Office. With the above mentioned VUT Departments, their function to these roadshows was to exhibit and share with the Satellite Campus, what they offer (Services and Programmes) to both VUT Staff Members and Students. One of the main requirements from the Satellite Campuses to the Main campus, was that all satellite campuses replicate the main campus in terms of Programmes and Services. The Satellite campuses were pleased with the visits, as they serve a proof that they are still vital and recognised.



### 2016 Second Year public Relations (Task Team) Annual presentation, 02 December 2015.

On this day, the Second Year Public Relations students (2016) had prepared an annual presentation on all the Events and Activities of 2016 that they had assist the Social Justice and Transformation(SJT) Unit with- mainly they were to give SJT a feedback on the events assessment SJT conducted in 2016- as future P.R Officers, that they took part in. The Guests for the day included, Public Relations and Hospitality HOD (Mev Jeanette Kearney), Social Justice and Transformation Director (Mr George Mvalo) and the Social Justice and Transformation Staff Members. At the end of this presentation the SJT Unit had learned about their; Strength and Weaknesses in terms of events coordination and where they can improve for future references. On the other hand the students after assisting the Unit for a Whole Year, they left with; major experience in Public Relations, exposure to the world of VUT and valued they were appreciative of the knowledge and skills gained from the Social Justice and Transformation Unit in their bags.

### VUT Submits comments on the Draft Framework on Disability

The VUT through SJT not only submitted comments to USAf on the Draft Policy Framework for Disability in PSET System but it also collated the sectoral input on behalf of USAf. The draft was sent for public comment on 18 November with 30 days set for public comments

### SJT Strategic Planning Workshop, December 5

Staff from SJT attended a 2 day strategic planning workshop from 5-6 December at the Emerald Resort and Casino, Vanderbiljepark. The goals for strategic planning workshop were the following: for all the SJT Staff Members to report back on the whole year work of 2016, evaluate if they have meet their targets for the year also plan for the following year of 2017.

Despite the student unrest which affected many universities, the SJT was able to deliver on many of its strategic goals for the year



### Annual DoL Submission

The SJT has a responsibility to develop, implement and evaluate the execution of the university's employment equity plan. In terms of section 20, the VUT as a designated employer is re-

quired to submit an annual employment equity progress report to the Department of Labour. This report was submitted to DoL after it was signed by the VC. A copy of the EEA2 report is now available on our web page

### **HEDSA Symposium**

SJT staff attended the biannual HEDSA Symposium held at Spier, Stellenbosch, in the Western Cape from 25-26 November. The SJT Director was a guest speaker on behalf of USAf's TMF

### **DSU Site Inspection**

We have reported in the past about the construction of the first disability services building for VUT. A delegation from SJT conducted an inspection of the building which will house both the Disability Services and Centre for African Languages. We expect that the university shall take handover of the building from the contractor during the first quarter of the 2017 academic year. Once completed, the building will offer state of the art facilities for students with disabilities.

### **Transformation Forum**

The SJT serves as a convener for the institutional TF, which held its last quarterly meeting for the year on .....it was gratifying that 75% of the faculties were represented. The TF plays a critical role in the transformation journey of VUT as it also plays an advisory role to the Executive Management Committee