

REPORT ON RISK EXPOSURE, ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT

STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY IS ALREADY COMMITTED TO A COMPREHENSIVE AND STRUCTURED RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME WITH A VIEW TO HELPING ENSURE CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY BY IDENTIFYING, CLASSIFYING, SUCCESSFULLY MANAGING, MONITORING AND PREFERABLY ELIMINATING THE INSTITUTIONAL RISKS AT ALL TIMES.

A structured process of risk reporting is strictly followed in accordance with the Regulations for Annual Reporting by Higher Education institutions set by the Department of Higher Education and Training.

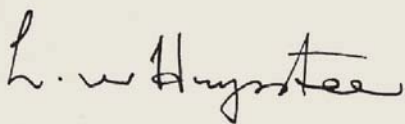
Although an effective risk management system has taken shape over the past few years, the search for appropriate refinements to the structures, systems and delegations continues. Such refinements arise also from the interaction between the Risk Management Committee on the one hand and the Audit and Risk Committee of Council on the other hand. Risk management grew into an ever greater institutional priority in the course of time, as may be seen from two practices lately established: the Rector now reports on material institutional risks comprehensively at every meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee; and the risks being managed in terms of line functions by the three Vice-Rectors and the Executive Director: Operations and Finance are now put before Council in risk register format.

Three matters received particular attention in 2010: the revision of the Risk Management Committee Rules; approval for levels of risk management; and the development and implementation of an electronic register for formal record keeping and reporting of risks. Examples of specific addenda to the Rules are the Master Disaster and Emergency Plan and procedure for handling protest action and a flow diagram for reporting disasters and emergencies. Policies to protect the University against exposure are in place. These include the violence-free campus policy, the weapons-free campuses policy, and the policy on the management of hazardous waste materials. As to risk management in 2010, one of the matters addressed was the Campus Access Control Project, in terms of which the existing system is to be expanded and the policy on and procedure for access to campuses are to be formalised.

In the year under review, several higher-level risks were successfully managed. These included image-related risks, financial risks, safety risks and strategic risks. All high-level statutory appointments as required by the Occupational Health and Safety Act, Act 85 of 1993, were made and all the required safety committees in the various departments were established and are functional.

Of the risks on the consolidated SU risk register, a substantial number, all recommended by the Audit and Risk Management Committee, were being successfully handled operationally in the various line functions. Acceptable plans and time scales were indicated for managing the remainder of the risks listed. Ongoing attention was given to planning for capital projects affected by teaching and research.

The training in risk management was continued. In addition, communication and information sessions to sensitise the campus community to risk were held on a planned basis.



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