



UNIVERSITEIT • STELLENBOSCH • UNIVERSITY
jou kennisvenoot • your knowledge partner

Background:

When making available the draft revised Language Policy of the Language Task Group on 16 October, Management invited comments on the proposals up to 1 November 2007. Responses and comments were received from a wide range of role-players and stakeholders. A total of 46 written responses were received from individuals and groups, including:

- 3 submissions from Council members
- 1 submission from Exco of the Convocation
- 2 submissions from students
- 3 submissions from external people
- 6 submissions from support staff
- 31 submissions from academics and groups of academics (e.g. academic departments).

More than 100 people made inputs.

Cognizance was taken of all these input and feedback, and of the deep divisions that became apparent from the input from the various individuals and stakeholder groups. The comments of academics were particularly critical, incisive and encompassing. Taking into account these divisions, Management believed that the continuation of the process of consideration and approval of the revised Language Policy posed a risk for SU, particularly in the light of the planned repositioning and gearing up of the University. Cognizance was also taken of the results of the preliminary Schlemmer Report on the experience of SU students of the language policy which were made public at the informal Council meeting on 10 November 2007. Following careful consideration of all input, Management made the following recommendations to Council on 16 November 2007:

Recommendations:

1. That the work of the Language Task Team be regarded as completed, and that they be thanked for the good work they have done over a long period and with great personal and professional sacrifice.
2. That Council does not accept the proposed amended Language Policy (draft 2) for consideration and decision.
3. That the present Language Policy be retained unchanged.
4. That the present Language Plan be retained with the following additions:
 - 4.1 The acceptance of the A&E language specification (parallel-medium teaching) as a viable option which, where it is academically attainable and accountable, and affordable, be encouraged. The A&E language specification can, like the A specification, be utilised without motivation.

- 4.2 Provision of tuition learning material (textbooks excluded) in Afrikaans and English for all language specifications, as affordable.
- 4.3 Further investigations into and utilisation of the innovative use of language technology to promote multilingualism.
- 4.4 The chairmanship of the Language Committee is filled by a member of the Rector's management team.
- 4.5 The Language Committee receives inter alia the specific task of developing a language promotion plan for Afrikaans.
- 4.6 Student complaints about the implementation of the Language Policy are dealt with by deans via the APC.
5. That Council allocates funds for the implementation of the Language Policy and Language Plan as part of the OSP funding plan.
6. That proposals for the implementation of the Language Plan in faculties be included in the normal annual faculty planning by deans (business plans) which are presented to Management for discussion and approval. Monitoring of the implementation will take place according to normal management structures and quality control mechanisms in faculties.
7. Management will report annually to Senate and Council via the Language Committee regarding the implementation of the Language Plan.