

INSTITUTIONALISING STUDENT SUCCESS AT WALTER SISULU UNIVERSITY



Siyaphumelela
we succeed



PRESENTATION STRUCTURE



- Successes in 2023
 - Student Profile
 - Data analytics
 - Student success structures
 - Co-curricular programmes
 - WSU101
 - Extended curriculum programme
 - UCDG 2024-2026
 - Priority programmes
 - Conclusion



HIGHLIGHTS: DATA ANALYTICS



- WSU Protocol for students at risk: Student Tracking, Academic advisors, Wellness cluster, Writing Centre, Peer to peer support & Faculties (Academics).
- Student Profiling using ITS and data from Surveys. Stars survey, BUSSE, SASSE etc. Over 30 000 students, 95% from public rural schools, 98 % First generation students, 99% NSFAS Funded, 30.7% General unhappiness with life
- Development of the Dashboard to quickly identify students at risk for ***on time and just for you*** support.
Demographic in Peril: Personal, financial, psychological & intellectual problems,
(Corredor, e.t. al, 2020)

HIGHLIGHTS: STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEES



- Planning for orientation done by FYE
- Student success committee Terms of Reference approved.
- Student Success Committee accepted as a sub-committee of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee.
- But due to rationalisation & Consolidation, these have to be reviewed in 2024 so as to have an institutional committee and Faculty committees.

EXTENDED CURRICULAR PROGRAMME



- Number of programmes:
- Student support activities: Language Development, FACES....
-
- Staff support:



HIGHLIGHTS: WSU 101- FIRST YEAR COMPULSORY MODULE



Purpose of the module:

- To orientate first year students into WSU culture and equip students with skills and knowledge required for them to adapt and transition smoothly by offering responsive and contextualised curriculum that embraces impactfulness and excellence.
- To be tabled at Senate and once approved to be piloted in 2024.
- Units include: **WSU history, financial literacy and entrepreneurship, student life, academic literacy, digital literacies, leadership & ethics & Ubuntu.**



WSU CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMME



- In 2023, the university established the co-curricular unit which runs activities in residences.
- The co-curricular Unit implements activities to enhance student learning and build important life skills thus enriching student experience.
- Academic writing support, mentorship programmes, advising support and ongoing orientation for first years are some of the programmes being run in the residences.
- Others are wellness and diversity awareness programmes.



BRAND AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME



- To enhance student voice the University appointed Brand Ambassadors.
- These student implement student programmes for students and help to surface the student voice.
- They run crucial conversations on human rights, student learning and are on the ground listening to student issues.



UCDG 2024-2026 REQUEST FIRST YEAR SUPPORT



WELLNESS	R1 279 099, 02
ACADEMIC ADVISING	R2 363 198,07
ACADEMIC WRITING	R3 276 846,60
CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES	R1 279 099, 02
BRAND AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	R2 018 198, 07
PEER TO PEER PROGRAMME	R3 600 000, 00



UCDG 2024-2026 REQUEST CONTINUING STUDENTS



PSYCHOSOCIAL AND ACADEMIC ADVISING	R888 422,97
ACADEMIC WRITING	R1 392 340.00
GRADUATE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME	R618 817, 00
PEER TO PEER	R4 141 465,59
DIVERSITY AND EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES	R1 247 079,60
DATA ANALYTICS	R2 070 000,00



CHALLENGES: ENCOUNTERED TO DATE



- Working in silos- some slight improvement both academics, academic development and psychosocial support.
- Resources financial and staff resources
- Data integrity: work in progress
- Divisional model: 4 Campuses more than 120 km apart- similar student experience.

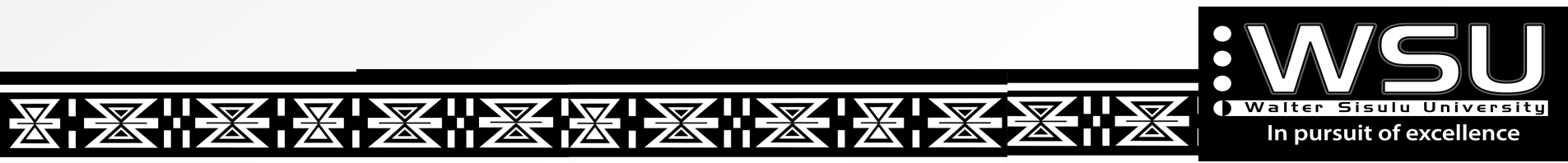


PROIRITY PROJECTS FOR THE FUTURE

Institutionalising student success



- Development of the Institutional student success framework
- Breaking silos for stakeholders to become team players through regular internal workshops on student success.
- Establishing and ensuring that committees such as the institutional student success and Faculty student success committees are functional.
- Deepen student participation on student success programmes



PROIRITY PROJECTS FOR THE FUTURE

Student tracking and monitoring



- Development of the Dashboard and operationalising the student tracking protocol.
- Data sharing with stakeholders
- Improving data integrity
- Training of stakeholders in data usage and generation



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PROIRITY PROJECTS FOR THE FUTURE

Strengthening orientation



- Development of an orientation strategy
- Implementing an inclusive programme with measurable outputs
- Effective onboarding programme
- Leverage the use of technology for induction of students (virtual Tours).



PROIRITY PROJECTS FOR THE FUTURE

Student Exchanges



- Participate in networks for cooperation through physical and virtual exchanges:
- Erasmus+ Mobility programmes for academic and cultural exchanges.
- Development of OERs for exchange with selected partners.



PROIRITY PROJECTS FOR THE FUTURE

Other Programmes



- Community engagement: e.g Tutorial programmes
- Diversity programmes: e.g African spirituality
- Competitions: Toastmasters, entrepreneurship, academic writing etc



Conclusion



Since Joining the programme:

We have learnt a lot

A lot has to be learnt still,

A lot of unlearning has to happen

And we will need to accept our vulnerability.

Thank you to Coach Prof. Bala bears testimony to this



Our university

An Impactful, technology infused African
University

THANK



YOU