DUT

DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

INYUVESI YASETHEKWINI YEZOBUCHWEPHESHE

ENVISION 2030

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THE WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2021 **TOP 500**

Siyaphumelela 2.0- Reflections

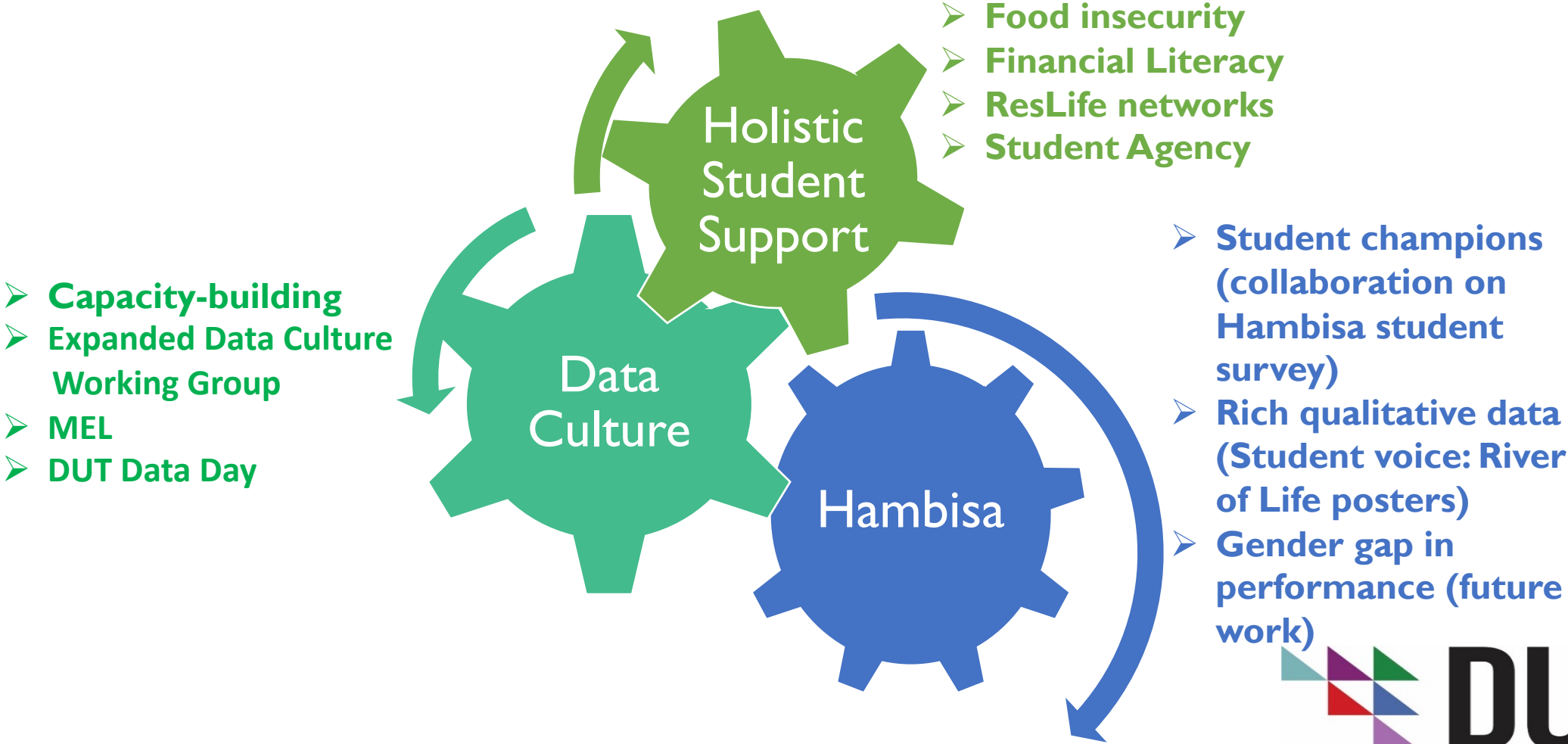| Biggest Student Success Challenges at DUT		Siyaphumelela 2.0 Focus Areas	
Financial and Food Insecurity of our students	1	Sikusekele (Holistic Student Supports): integrating student support systems	
Disjointed University support systems and processes			
Different levels of preparedness of students to become adaptive graduates and staff to engage with pedagogies that develop graduates with the acumen to initiate and/or respond to change	2	Hambisa (Moving the Middle): An integrated pedagogical approach to supporting Staff and Students	
Institutional Culture Change – Creating a data and evidence-led decision-making culture	3	Data Culture	

In the past three(3) years of Siyaphumelela 2.0, DUT used the Knowing, Doing and Impacting model. In order to achieve its envisaged outcomes. Each of the focus area identified a cohort of students/ and or department and unit to pilot and rack effectiveness of interventions.

Sikusekele(Holistic Student Support): piloted in the Midlands campuses and later extended to Durban Campuses
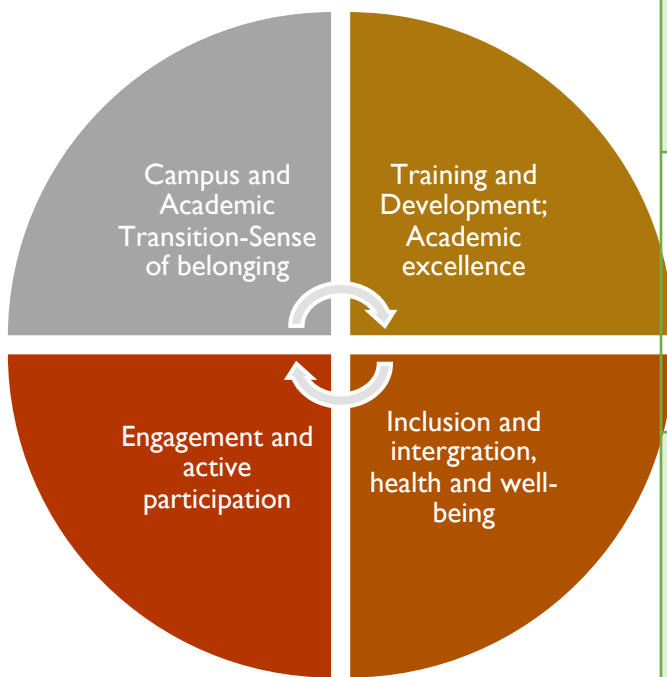
Hambisa: piloted in one(1) department within each of the six faculties.

Data Working Group: Focused on Autoscholar (AI mediated student tracking system)

Breaking silos & Building bridges

Holistic Student Support
- Food insecurity
- Financial Literacy
- ResLife networks
- Student Agency

Data Culture
- Capacity-building
- Expanded Data Culture Working Group
- MEL
- DUT Data Day

Hambisa
- Student champions (collaboration on Hambisa student survey)
- Rich qualitative data (Student voice: River of Life posters)
- Gender gap in performance (future work)

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Reflections

Developing (w)holistic graduates with the acumen to be both adaptable and able to respond to a rapidly evolving higher
education, profession and world that remain 'in-becoming'

Activity	Outcomes	Lessons
Co-creating and collaborating with students- un-silencing the student voice	Developing the agency to contribute meaningfully in the enhanced academic and campus experience.	Need to capacitate students with relevant skills for them to contribute in the co-creation and collaborations- DUT adopted the Design Thinking methodology
Integrating support for enhanced student cycle	Establish a holistic student support model, that integrates student support and development services for synergized impact	Strengthen common understanding on student success indicators and strategies to achieve goals
Scholarship of Holistic student support and success	Track impact and effectiveness of holistic student support and develop data/ evidence informed framework for HSS	Institutionalizing student success requires involvement of all stakeholders (staff, students and executive management) for shared understanding of student success

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THE World University Rankings 2023 **TOP 600**

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CREATIVE. DISTINCTIVE. IMPACTFUL.

Reflections

Integrate and Improve the analysis of impact of student support and development initiatives

Advocating for a shift from Input to Impact driven practices

Activity	Outcomes	Lessons
Governing and regulations for surveys	Conceptualize and approve a policy on the administration of surveys with the university	The university collects data through various departments; however, these disparate data pockets lack cohesion and fail to contribute to a unified narrative.
Use of AI for student tracking and early detection	Early identification and monitoring of high-priority students and modules, along with the delivery of tailored interventions for specific cohorts.	This led to positive outcomes in tracking and early detection of high-priority students and modules. It also promoted collaboration between academic staff and academic support units for timely interventions.

There is an urgent need for DUT to develop tools to collect data such as 1st generation status, quantiles etc. such data may be used to inform the proactive interventions for students with similar biographical information

Lessons Learnt

I.   Varied understanding of student success

I.   Sustained participation,

II.   limited impact of HIP

III.   Importance of considering multiple data sources and data production tool,

IV.   Integrated institutional plan,

V.   Developing student agency

SIKUSEKELE, HAMBISA, DATA WORKING GROUP

Considerations

i.   Institutional Strategic Map, Philosophy of Education

(creativity, innovation, transformation, adaptive, entrepreneurial)

i.   Foster a common understanding of student success indicators.

ii. Improve the analysis of the impact of student development initiatives.

iii. Intensify cohort responsive and discipline specific student development initiatives.

iv. Promote collaboration to maximise best practices.

v.   Reduce ad-hoc interventions and ensure we institutionalise our initiatives

Plans for Siyaphumelela 3.0
"Data focused, equity infused"

Siyaphumelela 2.0 has highlighted and revealed important factors that contributes to, and affect student success at DUT. Through the pilots, a number of interventions and strategies have been conceptualized and tracked for impact. Siyaphumelela 3.0 has a particular focus on Upscaling of interventions, and tracking of impact. Appreciative than deficit approach to student success.

- Enhance Production and Analysis of Data for Comprehensive Understanding of Student Success Factors

- Strengthen Holistic Student Development through Integrated Curricular Activities and Co-curricular Programs based on Data Analysis

- To leverage data-infused strategies and equity-focused approaches to enhance student success, staff development, and curriculum innovation at DUT

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Strategies	Focus Area
Use Design Thinking methodology to develop a holistic student support, development and success framework Comprehensive review of student support initiatives and development of 2nd transcript	Sikusekele(Holistic Student support)
Mainstreaming of high impactful practices Review of curriculum and capacity development for inclusive and innovative teaching and Learning	Hambisa (Moving the Middle)
Sensory engineering for cumulative tracking and early identification and monitoring Establishing and assessing comprehensive institutional surveys to enhance data collection and analysis capabilities	Data working group

THANK
YOU