

Programme for University Leaders in the Southern Africa Region (PULSAR) 2012

The Southern African Regional Universities Association in association with the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education UK

Preamble

This programme has been developed by the Southern African Regional Universities Association (SARUA) in association with the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education (LFHE) UK to provide an opportunity for the accelerated development of senior executive managers in SARUA member universities.

Potential participants

You will be the holder of the most senior administrative post in your university, with overall responsibility for the leadership of key professional and administrative functions. In some universities the post is entitled 'Registrar', although other titles are also used. You are likely to be a member of the senior executive team of your university with responsibility for a range of activities. These activities may include, but need not be restricted to, support for the governing body of your university and the university's deliberative committee structure, and oversight of: the university's regulatory framework and calendar, academic planning, management information, quality assurance, finance, human resources (including staff development), research management and information and communication technology.

Focus

PULSAR is designed to assist senior executive managers in universities in the Southern Africa Region in meeting both the internal challenges of the efficient running of their universities and the need to respond to the external development challenges of the nation in which their university is located. The programme will emphasise the importance of viewing these challenges not only within an institutional and national context but also in a regional and international context.

Objectives

By the end of this programme, participants will have had the opportunity to:

- Consider the national, regional and international development challenges facing universities in the Southern Africa Region
- Consider how universities in the Southern Africa Region are responding to those challenges
- Reflect on the strategic options available for the development of their university in the light of those challenges
- Consider the governance arrangements of other universities within the Southern Africa Region
- Consider the division of roles and responsibilities amongst senior executive managers in other universities in the Southern Africa Region
- Plan changes to particular functions for which they are responsible in their university in the light of practice in other universities in the Southern Africa Region and internationally
- Develop appropriate strategies to introduce strategic change in a particular area for which they have responsibility in their university
- Work in small groups to discuss specific governance, leadership and management issues
- Establish professional networks on which they can call as appropriate in future as they address governance, leadership and management issues in their university

Principles underlying the Programme design

The Programme is designed to be:

- Issue centred: by providing opportunities to focus on strategic issues of immediate concern to senior executive managers in universities in the Southern Africa Region
- Practical and action oriented: by providing opportunities to develop proposals to make existing arrangements and/or structures more effective or efficient
- Comparative: by providing opportunities to consider approaches and solutions used successfully in other universities in the Southern Africa Region
- Collaborative: by providing opportunities to work in groups to produce solutions and options for use after the conclusion of the Programme
- Developmental: by providing a safe and supportive environment in which to acquire knowledge and skills and explore options for change
- Challenging: by inviting participants to question the adequacy of existing arrangements or structures

Programme structure

PULSAR will involve three phases as follows:

Phase One: Contexts, challenges and tools

This Phase will consider the national, regional and international contexts within which institutional challenges have to be met and consider possible tools for addressing these challenges. This Phase will take the form of a five-day residential workshop in Johannesburg from 9 to 13 July 2012.

Phase Two: Options, solutions and strategies

This Phase will involve developing options and solutions to address a particular institutional challenge identified by each participant using the tools considered in Phase One. This Phase will be undertaken within a participant's own institution with support from the Programme Director as appropriate from July to October 2012.

Phase Three: Presenting, testing and refining

This Phase will involve presenting the proposed solutions, testing their feasibility in discussion with other Programme participants and refining the action and approach to be taken as a result. This Phase will take the form of a five-day residential workshop in Johannesburg from 5 to 9 November 2012.

Find out more

Still not sure if this programme is for you?

Talk directly to the Programme Director, David Parry

Tel: +44 (0) 208 441 4933

e-mail: davidwparry@sky.com

Booking process

Please submit a letter of application of no more than three pages to Coco Belgarrab by 11 June 2012 at this email: coco@sarua.org and cc-ed to davidwparry@sky.com.

In your letter of application, you should state your interest in this programme, a motivation for inclusion in this programme and what you hope to gain out of the programme.

SARUA has a limited number of places on the PULSAR programme and should the programme be over-subscribed, not all applicants will be accommodated. You will be notified within a week of the deadline about your participation.

The bulk of the cost of participation in the programme will be borne by SARUA. However, participants will be expected to contribute USD. 2,400 as co-payment, payable before the commencement of the first module.

Programme Director

Leading the Programme will be David Parry. David is an independent consultant with extensive experience in advising organisations in the public and not-for-profit sectors on governance, management and quality assurance both in the UK and overseas. He has worked for or evaluated national higher education agencies, universities and colleges of higher education and international and national not-for-profit organisations focusing on the effectiveness of their governance arrangements, strategic planning and decision-making and organisational and committee structures. Further information about David is available from SARUA.