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WRITING SKILLS IN LEGAL EDUCATION WORKSHOP

11 – 12 September 2014

STIAS, Stellenbosch

Introduction:

The development of law students' writing skills has become a topic of particular interest and concern in South African legal education in recent times. Stakeholders in the legal services industry have voiced criticism regarding the quality of law graduates' writing skills. Many law faculties have also started to grapple with this issue and various interventions have been implemented. Scholarship has also started to emerge locally on this issue with a number of recent articles in local law journals addressing topics within this area.

This workshop is aimed at bringing together these developments. The general purpose is to create a platform for an enriched discussion and exchange of ideas and perspectives on the development of writing skills in the context of legal education in South Africa.

Programme:

DAY 1: 11 September	
The programme for day 1 focuses on the sharing of experiences between law faculties regarding the development of students' writing skills. To facilitate such discussion, a number of faculties will formally present their experiences in 20 minute presentations. Each presentation will be followed by a further 20 minutes of discussion. While only eight faculties will formally present, the intention is that all participating faculties will share their experiences during discussions and that engagement should not be limited to the eight presenting faculties.	
09h00	Registration
09h45	Opening: Prof Sonia Human, Dean, Faculty of Law, Stellenbosch University
10h00	Why this workshop? Prof Geo Quinot, Stellenbosch University
10h30	Faculty 1 UCT: Ms Toni Gottlieb & Dr Lesley Greenbaum
11h10	Break
11h40	Faculty 2 Wits: Mr Paul Kaseke
12h20	Faculty 3 NWU (Mafikeng): Ms Charlene Lanser - Labuschagne
13h00	Lunch
13h50	Faculty 4 UKZN: Ms Angela Crocker
14h30	Faculty 5 UFS: Prof Elizabeth Snyman-Van Deventer & Ms Jo-Marie Visser
15h10	Break
15h30	Faculty 6 NWU (Potch): Mr Michael Laubscher
16h10	Faculty 7 NMMU: Ms Lynne Biggs
16h50	Faculty 8 SU: Mr Theo Broodryk
17h30	Closing Day 1
17h30 – 19:00 Cocktail Reception	



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DAY 2: 12 September	
The programme for day 2 is divided into two parts. In the first three presentations experts will share insights from their respective research fields that are of particular relevance to the development of students' writing skills. Each presentation will be 20 minutes long with at least 20 minutes for discussion. These sessions are aimed at facilitating a research-grounded reflection on approaches to writing skills development in legal education. The afternoon sessions will focus on perspectives from practice during two panel discussions involving representatives from various legal services environments.	
09h00	Expert Session 1: <i>Developing powerful writers: embedding writing development in the disciplinary curriculum</i> Dr Cecilia Jacobs, Director, Centre for Teaching & Learning, Stellenbosch University
09h50	Expert Session 2: <i>The unseen link: Reading for writing</i> Prof Christa van der Walt, Department of Curriculum Studies, Faculty of Education, Stellenbosch University
10h30	Break
11h00	Expert Session 3: <i>Information and communication technology for writing skills development: A prudent venture?</i> Dr Amanda Lourens, Department of Afrikaans and Dutch, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Stellenbosch University
11h50	Panel: Perspectives from practice 1 <i>Writing skills training post university study</i>
12h30	Lunch
13h30	Panel: Perspectives from the practice 2 <i>The professions' expectations and experiences of graduates' writing skills</i>
14h30	Closing discussion: The way forward Prof Geo Quinot
15h30 Conference closes	



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Arrangements:

1. Venue

The workshop will be held at the Wallenberg Research Centre at the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (STIAS). Directions to STIAS are included below or can be found on the Institute's website at www.stias.ac.za.

Parking is available in marked parking bays in front of the building and in the basement parking garage.

2. Accommodation

One night accommodation (11 September) will be sponsored by the organisers in a nearby guesthouse. In order to make the necessary arrangements, those wanting to make use of this offer must please confirm with Phillip de Beer at pjdebeer@sun.ac.za. Since availability is always an issue in Stellenbosch we urge participants to contact Phillip as soon as possible.

We hope to be able to accommodate all participants in a guesthouse that is within walking distance from STIAS. However, if that is not possible, we will arrangement for transport between STIAS and the accommodation.

3. Airport transfers

The organisers will arrange for transfers from Cape Town International Airport to Stellenbosch and back. Please contact Phillip de Beer (pjdebeer@sun.ac.za) with your flight details if you wish to make use of the transfer service.

4. Meals

Lunch will be served at the Wallenberg Centre on both days of the workshop. Those with special dietary requirements must please inform Phillip de Beer (pjdebeer@sun.ac.za) and we will request the Centre to make appropriate arrangements.



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5. Cocktail reception

All participants are invited to join us for a cocktail reception at the Wallenberg Centre immediately after the close of day 1 at 17:30. Please confirm your attendance with Phillip de Beer (pjdebeer@sun.ac.za).

If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact Phillip or either of us.

We look forward to seeing you in Stellenbosch in September.

Regards,

Geo Quinot (gquinot@sun.ac.za) &
Theo Broodryk (tbroodryk@sun.ac.za)

Faculty of Law
Stellenbosch University



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MAP TO STIAS:

