

African Student Leadership Network Brainstorming Session
Friday, 30 April 2004
Cargill's Restaurant, Rondebosch

Present: Nico Cloete, Tembile Kulati, Charlton Koen, Mlungisi Cele, Thierry Luescher, Thandi Lewin, Nazeema Mohamed, Edwina Goliath, Nazeema Mohamed, Thabiso Monyatsi

Tembile and Nico gave some background to the project and also highlighted some of the problems that the project has experienced.

Issues and Suggestions Arising:

- There should consideration should be given to working *via* regional clusters, which might make it easier to identify issues of common interest that students can identify with. It might also help address the issue of language, especially in the West African region, where French is the language of communication. This issue will be pursued further in our meeting with Anne-Marea and the others on 19 May.
- Mlungisi mentioned that there was a project on youth that is being undertaken under the auspices of CODESRIA. Another initiative that was also mentioned was the Pan-African Youth Congress which has an Annual Forum, the last one of which was held in Namibia. We need to investigate what or whether issues relating to higher education, or the role of youth in governance, have been addressed in these forums.
- There was a suggestion that we need to explore developing networks with editors of student newspapers at universities in Africa, who would be able to: 1) help us identify issues that are of concern to students, and, 2) be able to contribute written pieces to the forum.

Follow-up Tasks:

1. Mlungisi to investigate the issues that have been discussed within the CODESRIA initiatives (Youth and Higher Education, Youth in the Global Age), and in particular with regard to issues relating to governance.
2. Thierry to explore and examine the “state of the art” regarding the literature on student governance and the role of students in institutional governance.
3. Charlton and Mlungisi to consider preparing a short piece, arising from their current research, on student participation in higher education in South Africa.

4. Edwina to help us identify student newspaper editors that we can approach to contribute pieces to the forum.
5. Tembile to send Jowi and Nazeema's papers to the participants of this meeting.
6. Tembile to contact Jowi to investigate the state of student newspapers in East African universities.
7. Bridget to write to students asking them about their activities this year.