

HOD Meeting @ SACLA 2023

Date: 19 July 2023 14:00 – 16:00

Venue: <https://26dsouth.co.za/>

Proposed Agenda

1. Remote work and impact on staff and students.

Representatives from most institutions report that they have returned to face-to-face classes. Some students as well as staff members are struggling to adapt and class attendance is lower than before COVID-19.

There are complaints from several institutions about insufficient infrastructure.

Another shared complaint is that information has been slow to filter through to staff, and that staff felt 'left behind'.

2. Workload models and impact of huge student numbers on staff wellness.
It seems that many of those present are faced with very high student numbers, and insufficient infrastructure to accommodate these numbers. The balance between the budget and the growth is not always acceptable. The suggestion has been made (from top management etc.) that going online might solve these issues. Schools / departments are understaffed and overworked.
3. Benchmarking.
While benchmarking is done every 2 years at some institutions (one?), this is not frequently being done at others / most.
4. Student success in IT.
Some programmes have very low pass rates. Postgraduate numbers seem to be slipping.
5. The impact of AI and ChatGPT on Learning and Teaching and how it is being approached.
6. Scarcity / vacancies.
Scarcity and the struggle to fill vacancies are shared concerns. Most institutions report having to advertise several times. Many retirements coming in the next few years. Some institutions use tutors, peer-mentors and part-time staff.
7. CS2023: ACM/IEEE-CS/AAAI Computer Science Curricula.
8. Proposed online HOD meeting October 2023.

Attendance confirmed (12)				
NMU	Applied Technologies	Du Preez	Annelise	
NMU	Computing Sciences	Greyling	Jean	
NMU		Petratos	Sue	
UCT	CS	Suleman	Hussein	
UFS	CS and Informatics	Khomokhoana	Pakiso	(rep Eduan Kotze)
NWU (PC)	CS+IS	Taylor	Estelle	
NWU (VC)	CS+IS	Greeff	Japie	
UFH	IS	Pideret	Roxanne	(rep Liezel Cilliers)
UJ	Applied IS	Bvuma	Stella	
UWC	IS	Chigada	Joel	
VUT	Applied and CS	Harmse	Anneke	
University of Eswatini	Computer Science	Nxumalo	Madoda	

Apologies				
UFS	CS and Informatics	Kotze	Eduan	
UFH	IS	Cilliers	Liezel	
RU	IS	Sieborger	Ingrid	
US	CS	Van der Merwe	Brink	
UKZN	IS and T	Govender	Irene	
UP	Informatics	Smuts	Hanlie	