

INVITATION TO THE 2014 CONFERENCE

Date: Monday, 30 – Wednesday, 2 July 2014

Host: University of Pretoria, Tshwane University of Technology and UNISA

Venue: University of Pretoria Conference Centre, Hatfield Campus, Pretoria, Gauteng

Costs: R3 750.00 per delegate.

(For all conference materials, lunch and dinner for the duration of the conference)

Theme: "Embracing Change"

Dear Colleagues

Since the inception of NSFAS in 1996, Financial Aid offices at institutions played a pivotal role in assisting students with application forms, capturing and running means test to assess the students to assist NSFAS to determine the eligibility for students to qualify for funding. In the last few years Further Education and training institutions came on board getting millions of rand to assist student with bursary allocations. The capacity of NSFAS did not accommodate the additional workload and caused many problems at institutions. Institutions however found ways of dealing with these problems and could still service our students to the best of their ability.

Our conference in 2013 tried to address the implementation of the new student centred model by requesting NSFAS to address the challenges and concerns of our institutions and students at large. As we all aware this discussion/debate/information sharing did not go as planned. Very few questions could be address by the NSFAS delegation to the frustration of our delegates. The NSFAS however identified institutions to pilot this new system in 2014. As an organisation, FAPSA are not opposed to the system and the challenges that we will face. It is thus important that we need to embrace the changes and deal with the challenges as we have done in the past. Five institutions were nominated to be part of the pilot namely, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU, Comprehensive institution), University of Cape Town (UCT, Traditional university), Venda university (Traditional university), University of South Africa (UNISA, correspondence university) and Durban university of Technology (DUT, University of Technology).

As institutions numerous challenges were identified during the pilot and we would like to discuss and share these challenges to carve a way forward to prevent it from re-occurring should the pilot project and the role out of this model continue.

It is from this premise that FAPSA invites all member institutions and organizations to the 2014 FAPSA Conference and the 13th AGM. Registration fee is inclusive of the FAPSA Membership Fee, which entitles each member full participation and voting at the AGM.

Please note that there is **No Limit** to the number of delegates per University/University of Technology/FET College/Educational NGO. A maximum of 2 delegates per Provincial Dept. of Education and any other organization invited.

Institutions/organizations intending to send more than the stipulated maximum number of delegates should contact Alberto Lai Wing at 043 704 7245 or alai-wing@ufh.ac.za before making bookings for additional delegates.

FAPSA has negotiated a discounted rate for accommodation (B&B) for delegates, see attached list of hotels.

Registration starts @ 08H00 – 09H30 on 30 June 2014 with the last session concluding @ 14H00 on 2 July 2014.

This invitation serves as a call to member institutions and partners to start with the preparations for the 2014 Conference and the 13th Annual General Meeting where **You** will begin developing and bringing to life the request made by the former leaders of FAPSA, that of **"Building a better and more focused organisation aimed at better servicing our members, institutions and students"**.

Yours sincerely

FAPSA President
Wayne Muller

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