

**Campus-wide poll to determine preferences among current staff and students for language models
29 October to 4 November 2015**

Question-and-answer sheet

1. What is the background to the review of the UFS Language Policy?

As mandated by the Council on 5 June 2015, the senior leadership of the University of the Free State (UFS) has committed itself to a formal review process of the current language policy through a comprehensive process of consultation with all university stakeholders.

Since 19 August 2015, the following public sessions have taken place across all three campuses:

- Public dialogue for staff and students, Qwaqwa Campus, 19 August 2015
- Staff submissions, Bloemfontein Campus, 20 August 2015
- External stakeholder submissions, Bloemfontein Campus, 24 August 2015
- Public dialogue for staff and students, South Campus, 26 August 2015
- Alumni submissions, Bloemfontein Campus, 27 August 2015
- Expert panel discussion for staff and students with Q&A, Bloemfontein Campus, 31 August 2015
- Staff, students, and external stakeholder submissions, Qwaqwa Campus, 9 September 2015
- Panel discussion and public dialogue for students, Bloemfontein Campus, 10 September 2015
- Expert panel discussion for staff and students with Q&A, Bloemfontein Campus, 11 September 2015
- Student submissions, Bloemfontein Campus, 15 September 2015
- Staff and student submissions, South Campus, 16 September 2015
- Convocation submissions, Bloemfontein Campus, 30 September 2015

Further, written and online submissions from the entire university community were put forward until 18 September 2015, while the Convocation had until 30 September 2015 to submit. During the process, the Language Committee has met weekly and discussed the viability, benefits and challenges of various language model options, taking into account institutional, regional, national and global concerns, documents and information.

Following the university's commitment to open, democratic practice, the UFS calls upon all its current staff and students to participate in a campus-wide poll in order to assist the Language Committee in determining possible preferences among current staff and students for language models. The possible models have emerged from the broad consultation process.

2. What is the aim of the language poll?

The language poll is conducted to assist the UFS Language Committee in determining possible preferences among current staff and students for language models. The possible models have emerged from the broad consultation process.

The poll is **NOT** a formal voting process or referendum and will form **only one part** of many deciding factors that will be referred to the UFS Council on 4 December 2015 for their deliberations regarding the future of the language policy at the UFS. The poll will be indicative of the possible preferences of staff and students for possible language model options.

3. What are the three options staff and students can choose from during the poll?

Question on the option document: *What should the language of instruction at the University of the Free State be:*

- a. English only
- b. Lectures are offered *mainly in English* but with some exceptions (such as teacher education offered in both English and Afrikaans) and with adequate language support for students in Afrikaans, Sesotho and isiZulu.
- c. Parallel model (English and Afrikaans)

4. What do these three options mean?

- a. The university conducts its classes *in English only*.
- b. The university conducts its classes *mainly in English* but with some exceptions (such as teacher education offered in both English and Afrikaans) and with adequate language support for students in Afrikaans, Sesotho and isiZulu.
- c. The university continues with its current parallel-medium language policy i.e. separate classes *in English and Afrikaans*.

5. How will culturally Deaf students be accommodated?

Taking into account that culturally Deaf students will be accommodated in their classes with South African Sign language interpreting services, the options in the language poll are applicable to their preferred written language.

6. What about the language of meetings and administrative processes?

The language poll will focus on determining the preferences of staff and students in terms of **language of instruction**. Focus groups with support services staff will be conducted by the Directorate for Institutional Research and Academic Planning (DIRAP) to determine their preferences.

7. What is the format of the poll?

One question with three options will be provided. A staff member or student must indicate only ONE option as model for language of instruction. This is not a voting process, but a way of collecting the opinions of staff and students about the three language options.

8. Who will conduct the poll?

The Independent Electoral Commission will facilitate and audit the poll in the interest of objectivity and transparency.

9. On which dates can I participate in the poll:

Thursday 29 October 2015 to Wednesday 4 November 2015, including the weekend.

10. From what time will the polling stations be open?

08:00-16:30, daily.

11. Where can I participate in the poll?

Bloemfontein Campus:
Kestell Residence Gazellie
Fish Tank, SRC Building , Thakaneng Bridge

Qwaqwa Campus:
VIP Lounge, Nelson Mandela Hall

South Campus:
Conference Hall

12. Where are these venues?

Bloemfontein Campus – Kestell Residence Gazellie (Use the Kestell rear entrance. Be on the lookout

for the IEC banner):

- Click on the link for a map of the Bloemfontein Campus. The Kestell Residence is highlighted on the map.

Qwaqwa Campus – Nelson Mandela Hall with the VIP Lounge:

- Click on the link for a map of the Qwaqwa Campus. The Nelson Mandela Hall is highlighted on the map.

South Campus – Conference Hall:

- Click on the link for a map of the South Campus. The Conference Hall is highlighted on the map.

13. Why is there only one venue per campus for the poll and why these specific venues?

These venues allow for one entry and one exit point, using your valid staff/student card. This allows the university to give accurate data to the IEC in terms of their security criteria and it will assist in ensuring the integrity of the poll.

14. What do I need to bring with me when I visit the polling station?

Staff members need to bring their valid personnel cards and students need to bring their valid student cards. No one will be allowed into the polling station without a card.

15. What if my card does not work?

Staff members can visit the Card Division to check the physical status of their card. Staff on the Bloemfontein and South Campuses can contact these offices at the Thakaneng Bridge on the Bloemfontein Campus.

Staff on the Qwaqwa Campus can visit Anna Zulu to check the physical status of their card. Students can visit the Student Academic Services office for inquiries about their student status. If everything is correct in terms of status, you can visit the Card Division to check the physical status of your card. Students on the Bloemfontein and South Campuses can contact these offices at the Thakaneng Bridge on the Bloemfontein Campus.

Students on the Qwaqwa Campus can visit the Student Academic Offices to establish their student status. If there is not a problem with your student status, please visit Anna Zulu (zulua@ufs.ac.za) to check the physical status of your card.

16. Can I take part online as well?

Go to <http://www.ufs.ac.za/language> to participate. This URL will be active as from Thursday 29 October at 08:00. This URL will be active as from Thursday 29 October at 08:00. Staff to log in with their username and password and students to use their UFS credentials (your username is your student number and your password is the one you use to log in at Blackboard).

17. What will happen in case of a power interruption?

The polling stations will close.

18. What happens after the poll?

A proposal on the preferred language options will be shared for feedback with the student leaders, the University Management Committee, the Senate, the Institutional Forum and the executive committee of Council for discussion from where it will be submitted to the UFS Council for approval during its meeting on Friday 4 December 2015.

19. Who do I contact with regard to my enquiries?

Please send an email to language@ufs.ac.za or call 051 401 3422.

Kampuswye meningspeiling om voorkeure vir taalmodelle onder huidige personeel en studente te bepaal

29 Oktober – 4 November 2015

1. Wat is die agtergrond vir die hersiening van die UV Taalbeleid?

Volgens die mandaat wat op 5 Junie 2015 van die Raad ontvang is, is die senior leierskap van die Universiteit van die Vrystaat (UV) daartoe verbind om 'n formele hersieningsproses van die huidige taalbeleid te onderneem deur middel van 'n volledige konsultasieproses met alle belanghebbendes van die universiteit.

Sedert 19 Augustus 2015 het die volgende openbare sessies op al drie kampusse plaasgevind:

- Openbare dialoogsessie vir personeel en studente, Qwaqwa-kampus, 19 Augustus 2015
- Personeelvoorleggings, Bloemfontein-kampus, 20 Augustus 2015
- Voorleggings deur eksterne belanghebbendes, Bloemfontein-kampus, 24 Augustus 2015
- Openbare dialoog vir personeel en studente, Suid-kampus, 26 Augustus 2015
- Alumni-voorleggings, Bloemfontein-kampus, 27 Augustus 2015
- Deskundige paneelbespreking vir personeel en studente met vraag-en-antwoordsessie, Bloemfontein-kampus, 31 Augustus 2015
- Voorleggings deur personeel, studente en eksterne belanghebbendes, Qwaqwa-kampus, 9 September 2015
- Paneelbespreking en openbare dialoog vir studente, Bloemfontein-kampus, 10 September 2015
- Deskundige paneelbespreking vir personeel en studente met vraag-en-antwoordsessie, Bloemfontein-kampus, 11 September 2015
- Studentevoorleggings, Bloemfontein-kampus, 15 September 2015
- Voorleggings deur personeel en studente, Suid-kampus, 16 September 2015
- Konvokasievoorleggings, Bloemfontein-kampus, 30 September 2015

Verder is daar tot 18 September 2015 geleentheid gegee vir skriftelike en aanlyn-voorleggings deur die hele kampusgemeenskap, terwyl die Konvokasie tot 30 September 2015 voorleggings kon maak. Die Taalkomitee het gedurende die proses weklíks vergader om die lewensvatbaarheid, voordele en probleme van verskillende opsies vir taalmodelle te bespreek, met inagneming van institusionele, streeks-, nasionale en globale oorwegings, dokumente en inligting.

Na aanleiding van die universiteit se verbintenis tot 'n oop en demokratiese proses, doen die UV 'n beroep op alle huidige personeel en studente om aan 'n kampuswye meningspeiling deel te neem ten einde die Taalkomitee te help om maontlike voorkeure vir taalmodelle onder huidige personeel en studente te bepaal. Die maontlike modelle het uit die breë konsultasieproses na vore gekom.

2. Wat is die oogmerk van die taalmeningspeiling?

Die taalmeningspeiling word uitgevoer om die UV-Taalkomitee te help om maontlike voorkeure vir taalmodelle onder huidige personeel en studente te bepaal. Die maontlike modelle het uit die breë konsultasieproses na vore gekom.

Die meningspeiling is **NIE** 'n formele stemproses of referendum nie en vorm **slegs een deel** van talle deurslaggewende faktore wat op 4 Desember 2015 na die UV-Raad verwys sal word vir beraadslaging oor die toekoms van die taalbeleid by die UV. Die meningspeiling sal 'n aanduiding wees van personeel en studente se voorkeure vir maontlike taalmodel-opsies.

3. Wat is die drie opsies waaruit personeel en studente gedurende die meningspeiling kan kies?

Vraag op die opsiedokument: *Wat moet die taal van onderrig by die Universiteit van die Vrystaat wees:*

- a. Slegs Engels
- b. Lesings word *hoofsaaklik in Engels aangebied*, maar met enkele uitsonderings (soos onderwyseropleiding wat in sowel Engels as Afrikaans aangebied word) en met voldoende taalondersteuning vir studente in Afrikaans, Suid-Sotho en Zoeloe.
- c. Parallele model (Engels en Afrikaans)

4. Wat beteken hierdie drie opsies?

- a. Die universiteit voer sy klasse *slegs in Engels*.
- b. Die universiteit voer sy klasse *hoofsaaklik in Engels*, maar met enkele uitsonderings (soos onderwyseropleiding wat in sowel Engels as Afrikaans aangebied word) en met voldoende taalondersteuning vir studente in Afrikaans, Suid-Sotho en Zoeloe.
- c. Die universiteit gaan voort met sy huidige parallellevoertaalbeleid, d.w.s. afsonderlike klasse *in Engels en Afrikaans*.

5. Hoe sal daar vir kulturele dowe studente voorsiening gemaak word?

As in ag geneem word dat daar deur middel van Suid-Afrikaanse Gebaretaal vir kultureel dowe studente in hulle klasse voorsiening gemaak word, is die opsies in die taalmeningsopname op hulle voorkeur- geskrewe taal van toepassing.

6. Wat van die taal vir vergaderings en administratiewe prosesse?

Die taalmeningspeiling sal daarop fokus om die voorkeure van personeel en studente in terme van **onderrigtaal** te bepaal. Die Direkoraat vir Institusionele Navorsing en Akademiese Beplanning (DINAB) sal fokusgroepe met steundienspersoneel onderneem om hulle voorkeure te bepaal.

7. Wat is die formaat vir die meningspeiling?

Een vraag met drie opsies sal verskaf word. 'n Personeelid of student moet slegs EEN opsie as model vir taal van onderrig aandui. Dit is nie 'n stemproses nie, maar 'n manier om die menings van personeel en studente oor die drie taalopsies te verkry.

8. Wie sal die meningspeiling uitvoer?

Die Onafhanklike Verkiesingskommissie sal die meningspeiling in belang van objektiwiteit en deursigtigheid koördineer en audit.

9. Op watter dae kan ek aan die meningspeiling deelneem:

Donderdag 29 Oktober tot Woensdag 4 November 2015, waaronder die naweek.

10. Watter tye sal die lokale oop wees?

08:00-16:30, daaglik.

11. Waar kan ek aan die meningspeiling deelneem?

Bloemfontein-kampus:
Kestell-koshuis se gazellie
Vistenk, SR-gebou, Thakaneng-brug

Qwaqwa-kampus:
BBP-sitkamer, Nelson Mandela-saal

Suid-kampus:
Konferensie-saal

12. Waar is dié lokale geleë?

Bloemfontein-kampus se Kestell-koshuis-gazellie (Gebruik die agterste ingang by Kestell. Wees op die uitkyk vir die OVK-banier):

- Klik op die skakel vir 'n kampuskaart van die Bloemfontein-kampus. Die Kestell-koshuis word op die kaart beklemtoon.

Qwaqwa-kampus se Nelson Mandela-saal met die BBP-sitkamer:

- Klik op die skakel vir 'n kampuskaart van die Qwaqwa-kampus. Die Nelson Mandela-saal word op die kaart beklemtoon.

Suid-kampus se Konferensie-saal:

- Klik op die skakel vir 'n kampuskaart van die Suid-kampus. Die Konferensie-saal word op die kaart beklemtoon.

13. Hoekom is daar slegs een lokaal per kampus vir die meningspeiling en hoekom hierdie spesifieke lokale?

Hierdie lokale maak voorsiening vir een ingangs- en een uitgangspunt wanneer u u personeel/studentekaart gebruik. Dit stel die universiteit in staat om die korrekte data aan die OVK te verskaf kragtens hulle veiligheidskriteria en dit sal help om die integriteit van die meningspeiling te verseker.

14. Wat moet ek saambring na die lokaal?

Personeellede moet hulle geldige personeelkaarte saambring en studente moet hulle geldige studentekaarte saambring. Niemand sal sonder 'n kaart in die lokaal toegelaat word nie.

15. Wat as my kaart nie werk nie?

Personeellede kan die Kaartafdeling besoek om die fisiese status van hul kaarte na te gaan. Personeel op die Bloemfontein- en Suid-kampus kan hierdie kantore by die Thakaneng-brug op die Bloemfontein-kampus kontak.

Personeel op die Qwaqwa-kampus kan vir Anna Zulu besoek om die fisiese status van hul kaarte na te gaan.

Studente kan Akademiese Studentedienste besoek in verband met navrae oor hul studentestatus. As alles in orde is in terme van u status, kan u die Kaartafdeling besoek om die fisiese status van u kaart na te gaan. Studente op die Bloemfontein- en Suid-kampus kan hierdie kantore by die Thakaneng-brug op die Bloemfontein-kampus kontak.

Studente op die Qwaqwa-kampus kan die kantore van Akademiese Studentedienste besoek om hulle studentestatus te bevestig. As daar nie 'n probleem met u studentestatus is nie, besoek gerus vir Anna Zulu (zulua@ufs.ac.za) om die fisiese status van u kaart na te gaan.

16. Kan ek aanlyn ook deelneem?

Gaan na <http://www.ufs.ac.za/taal> om deel te neem. Die URL sal vanaf Donderdag 29 Oktober om 08:00 aktief wees. Die URL sal vanaf Donderdag 29 Oktober om 08:00 aktief wees. Personeel meld aan met hulle gebruikersnaam en wagwoord. Studente gebruik hulle UV-intekenbesonderhede (gebruik u studentenummer as gebruikersnaam en dieselfde wagwoord wat u sal gebruik om by Blackboard aan te meld).

17. Wat sal gebeur in geval van 'n kragonderbreking?

Die lokale sal sluit.

18. Wat gebeur na afloop van die meningspeiling?

'n Voorstel oor die voorkeur-taalopsies sal vir terugvoer met studenteleiers, die Universiteitsbestuurskomitee, die Senaat, die Institusionele Forum en die uitvoerende komitee van die Raad vir bespreking gedeel word, waarna dit aan die UV-Raad voorgelê sal word vir goedkeuring tydens sy vergadering op Vrydag 4 Desember 2015.

19. Wie kan ek kontak in verband met 'n navraag?

Stuur gerus 'n e-pos aan taal@ufs.ac.za of kontak 051 401 3422.