

NOTES OF MEETING

ADEA Working Group on Higher Education

STEERING COMMITTEE

Nairobi, February 10, 2001

Present:

W. Saint	Coordinator	D. Court	Rockefeller/World Bank
D. Tarpeh	AAU	T. Aina	Ford Foundation
F. Rajaoson	AAU	F. Chung	UNICBA
M. Peters	Netherlands	J. Walenkamp	NUFFIC
A. Girdwood	Com. Sec.	R. Jacob	DAAD
G. Bittner	USAID	J. Moock	Rockefeller Foundation
C. Coleman	USAID	P. Kotecha	SAUVCA
T. Moreau	USAID	T. Manuh	Univ. of Ghana
R. Monro	British Council	O. Sagna	AUF
N. Matos	Carnegie	P. Mdemu	MSTHE, Tanzania
R. Lotsberg	NORAD	A. vander Zanden	Netherlands
W. Rwambulla	CAPA	J. Moulen	Cameroon
J. Shabani	UNESCO	T. Tlou	AAU
K. Pohjolainen-Yap	SIDA/SAREC	S. Holtta	FINNIDA
		S. Burden	MacArthur Foundation

Absent: H. Mekuoar (AAU)

Special Guests: Dr. George Eshiwani (Vice-Chancellor, Kenyatta University and President, Association of African Universities), Richard Sack (ADEA), Kabiru Kinyanjui (IDRC), Anne-Marea Griffin (Ford Foundation), Lisbeth Levey (PIAC), Michael Kelly (University of Zambia), Makenya Maboko (Univeristy of Dar es Salaam), George Subotzky (University of Western Cape), Allison Burnes (ACU), Burton Bollag (Chronicle of Higher Education), Beth Whitaker (USAID).

Introduction:

- Participants were welcomed by Dr. William Saint (WGHE Coordinator) and Prof. François Rajaoson (Secretary General, AAU).
- Each individual Steering Committee member introduced herself or himself.
- The agenda for the meeting was accepted.

- William Saint reported on actions taken since the last meeting. These included:
 - WGHE sponsored workshop on “On-Line Resources for Teaching and Learning in African Universities” was organized by PIAC/INASP and held at Makerere University in Uganda.
 - Reprinting and distribution in Africa of the PIAC report *Wired for Information: Putting the Internet to Good Use in Africa*.
 - Completion of seven case studies of the impact of AIDS on universities in Africa, and preparation of a synthesis report.
 - Completion of a *Directory to Donor Assistance for African Higher Education* and its publication in English and French.
 - USAID contribution of \$1 million to the WGHE in support of the AAU’s program of regional cooperation for postgraduate training and research. Coordination meetings have been held with the AAU and with USAID. The AAU has requested revised funding proposals from the seven authors, and will send an AAU staff member to evaluate each project’s ‘readiness’ during the month of March.
 - WGHE support for the AAU General Conference included presentations on AIDS and universities, and on Internet resources for teaching and learning; distribution of several WGHE reports; and travel assistance for three governmental higher education policymakers to participate in the meeting.
 - A work program for the WGHE covering the 2001/2003 period was prepared and submitted to the ADEA Steering Committee for approval in October 2000.

“Old Business”

- William Saint reviewed the current WGHE work program.
 - ✓ Case studies of HIV/AIDS and Universities: Seven studies, together with an overall synthesis, were completed as scheduled. The synthesis was presented to the SC members by its author, Prof. Michael Kelly. (It was also presented to the 250 participants of the AAU General Conference on February 9th.) The report is scheduled for final editing, translation and publication in English and French. These publications are expected to be available in April of this year and will be posted on the WGHE website.

- ✓ Strengthening the Role of University Councils: Copies of the WGHE commissioned evaluation by Prof. Andrew Siwela of training materials produced by the Centre for Higher Education Transformation (Pretoria, South Africa) for the orientation of newly appointed members of university councils were distributed to SC members. The Coordinator asked for member suggestions as to where these materials might be piloted. (Note: Following this SC meeting, the National Council for Tertiary Education of Ghana expressed an interest in working with the WGHE on this activity and arrangements are now being made to do so.)

- ✓ Survey of Higher Education Innovations: The representative from the Rockefeller Foundation, David Court, reported that the regional survey of innovations in African higher education contracted through the WGHE was now underway. Four senior researchers will be responsible for the major geographical zones: Dr. Njuguna N’gethe for East Africa; Dr. Peter Okebukola for anglophone West Africa; Dr. N’Dri Assié-Lumumba for Francophone Africa; and Dr. George Subotzky for Southern Africa. A workshop to develop the survey methodology was held with the four researchers in Nairobi on February 4th. A draft survey questionnaire was tested among participants at the AAU Conference and revised accordingly. The survey instrument will be sent to the heads of all African universities during the month of April.

- ✓ WGHE/AAU Memorandum of Understanding: Members were asked for their thoughts on issues that should be covered under this proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The AAU stated its desire to strengthen its on-going relationship with the WGHE, but requested more information on program coordination, cost implications, and capacity requirements. It also raised the possibility of a ‘conflict of interest’ between fundraising for the WGHE program and for the core program of the AAU. The possibility of ‘contracting’ the coordination of the WGHE to the AAU by the Steering Committee was discussed. Somewhat similar coordination arrangements undertaken by the Working Group on Education Finance (with CODESRIA) and the Working Group on Female Participation (with FAWE) were analyzed. The needs for clear institutional boundaries, separate governance structures and non-competitive fundraising were noted. The desire to maintain a flexible working relationship between the two parties was also expressed. Overall, a clearer definition of working relations between the WGHE and the AAU through some type of written agreement was endorsed and the WGHE Coordinator and AAU Secretary General were asked to pursue this agreement.

“New Business”

- Suggestions for the 2002/2003 work program: Existing WGHE activities of (1) strengthening university councils, (2) facilitating the use of ICT for university teaching and management, (3) combating the spread of HIV/AIDS on campuses, and (4) identifying and disseminating higher education innovations, were ratified as activities that should continue into the triennial planning period. A possible new activity put forward for WGHE consideration in planning the triennial work program included: (5) performance assessment of non-university tertiary institutions in Africa.
- ADEA Working Groups Evaluation: Richard Sack summarized ADEA’s recent evaluation of the various Working Groups. The assessment was generally positive, but identified concerns with insufficient attention to capacity building activities and with ‘anchoring’ the Working Groups better within Africa. Principal conclusions were three: (i) the Working Groups should be more responsive to the needs of Ministries of Education; (ii) the coordination of activities between and among Working Groups could be improved; and (iii) the Working Groups need to be better publicized and better known in Africa.

Institutional Reports

Institutions represented at the meeting provided short reports on their current activities in the field of African higher education. Summaries of these reports are provided in Attachment 1.

Agreed Actions

- Three ‘working parties’ were established to develop proposals, via email communications, for the WGHE work program in 2002/2004. These groups will focus on (i) HIV/AIDS and tertiary institutions; (ii) use of ICT for tertiary teaching and learning; and (iii) non-university tertiary institutions. They agreed to complete their work and share their proposals by March 31, 2001.
- The suggestion was made and approved that the WGHE should support the preparation of a teaching module on the management of HIV and AIDS in African Universities for use by the AAU in its Senior University Management (SUMA) workshops.
- University responses to HIV/AIDS will be included in the regional survey of higher education innovations.
- Possible WGHE program development on student leadership will be suspended for the present due to lack of capacity.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the WGHE Steering Committee will be held on Sunday, October 14, 2001 in Arusha, Tanzania at the time of the ADEA Biennial Conference (October 15-19, 2001) which will be held at the same site. Agenda items will include: (a) progress of the 2001 work program; (b) approval of the 2002/2003 work program; and (c) formalizing the WGHE/AAU partnership through a memoranda of understanding between the AAU and the WGHE. One French translator will be contracted, but simultaneous translation will not be provided.

Respectfully submitted, March 30, 2001

William Saint
Coordinator
ADEA Working Group on Higher Education

Institutional Reports on Higher Education Activities

Commonwealth Secretariat. Is re-structuring its fellowship program and preparing a new initiative on quality assurance in higher education.

Carnegie Corporation. Four private American foundations (Carnegie, Ford, MacArthur and Rockefeller) created a partnership last year for the development of higher education in Africa. This “Foundation Partnership” is undertaking the following four activities: (1) a survey of higher education innovations in Sub-Saharan Africa with the WGHE; (2) a mapping of the diversity of provision of higher education in Sub-Saharan Africa with the AAU; (3) six case studies of “universities on the move;” and (4) an assessment of global trends affecting the course of higher education in Africa contracted with Yale University. At the same time, funding will be provided for universities in accord with the mandates and priorities of the individual foundations.

USAID. Is sponsoring research and related work on the impact of HIV/AIDS on higher education in Africa through its university partnership program.

Ford Foundation. Has just launched a global MA/PhD fellowship program, funded at \$330 million, that will focus on marginalized groups and countries.

UNESCO/BREDA. Is initiating an African Innovation Network, and is also participating with the African Development Bank in a series of studies of higher education reform possibilities in Francophone Africa.

Commonwealth Association of Polytechnics in Africa (CAPA). Is beginning a program for strengthening the teaching of science and math in polytechnics based on a distance education training program developed by the Commonwealth of Learning for South African technikons. The first phase of this program will focus on Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. CAPA is also involved in efforts to integrate self employment and entrepreneurship skills into the polytechnic curriculum in various countries.

Government of Tanzania. Broader civil service reforms have prompted the University of Dar es Salaam to introduce significant innovations in its management, governance and curriculum. This has created a need for legislative changes in the university act.

African Economic Research Consortium (AERC). Has designed and is starting an Africa-based regional PhD program in economics. The program will include a course structure (the first in Africa), rotating outside faculty members, organization by geographical catchment areas, and an overseas post-doctoral experience to give the graduates international exposure.

UNICBA. Has just produced a bibliography on school management which is available on Compact Disc (CD), and is designing a school leadership development program.

DAAD. Is shaping its scholarships program to support the AAU program on regional collaboration in post-graduate training and research at Dakar, Senegal; Kumasi, Ghana and Pretoria, South Africa.

Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie. Offers mobility grants for scientific and academic exchanges, supports several academic networks, funds scientific publications and meetings, and is developing ICT infrastructure and knowledge partnerships.

University of Western Cape. The Education Policy Unit is developing teaching and research programs on comparative higher education in Africa and hopes to eventually become a resource center for regional research on this topic. It is also planning a regional needs assessment on the demand for training in higher education management and policy. A regional MA degree program may be the result.

British Council. Its Links program was recently evaluated very positively. A strong demand for university partners exists in Africa, and the British Council would welcome other donor agencies who might wish to join this effort.

SIDA/SAREC. Is pursuing a client-driven program of development assistance in which African university faculties propose to SIDA the nature of the collaboration they wish based on their assessment of the “changing landscape” in which they operate.

NUFFIC. Is currently pursuing efforts to incorporate indigenous African knowledge into the university curriculum.

NORAD. Supports a partnership program through the Norwegian Council of Universities Programme for Development Research and Education. It has also recently agreed to support implementation of the strategic plan at Makerere University in Uganda.

SADC Protocol on Education and Training. This recently signed agreement enables the pooling of resources from various countries to create centres of specialization in graduate training. The first example will be a Centre for Public Administration in Botswana that will be funded in part by GTZ.

Association of African Universities. Has recently held its General Conference in Nairobi at which a new Core Programme and a new Executive Board were approved. The AAU also issued a Declaration on the African University in the Third Millennium.

South African Universities Vice-Chancellors Association (SAUVCA). Is currently involved in four activities: (i) the development of a uniform framework of qualifications and standards for disciplines taught in universities and technikons; (ii) capacity building and institutional audits for quality assurance; (iii) a seminar on regulation and licensing experiences and lessons learned with regard to private provision of higher education; and (iv) a survey of institutional linkages currently active at tertiary institutions in South Africa.

IDRC. Further recent program re-structuring has led IDRC to withdraw from assistance to the education sector and to terminate its participation in the WGHE.

World Bank. In recognition of recent changes in the global economy, information technology, and the role of higher education, the World Bank is currently updating its 1994 policy paper on higher education. The new statement is expected later this year.