



COMMITTEE OF UNIVERSITY PRINCIPALS KOMITEE VAN UNIVERSITEITSHOOFDE

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The Secretariat
National Negotiating Forum
World Trade Centre
KEMPTON PARK

Dear Sir/Madam

THE POSITION OF UNIVERSITIES IN A NEW DISPENSATION

It has come to the attention of the CUP that the issue of whether universities should resort under a central and/or regional government is to be resolved in the immediate future.

The CUP wishes to bring to the attention of the Negotiation Forum its viewpoint that policy for university affairs should be formulated nationally.

Certain aspects of tertiary education can best be dealt with in a centralised structure. A central department of education will be best placed to draw up an education budget within the priorities set within the total state budget. Similarly an information system like the present SAPSE-system should be maintained centrally to facilitate education planning for the country as a whole.

The interdependence in the teaching task of the various components of the tertiary education sector (universities, technikons and colleges) becomes more and more important. This can only meaningfully be addressed in a regional context, hence the necessity of some regional arrangement as well.

Professional guidance for the above functions within the tertiary education sector may well point towards the advisability of a buffer body, which will be representative of various interest bodies and take responsibility for the development of scientifically founded advice to government on issues like accreditation, standards, articulation, etc.

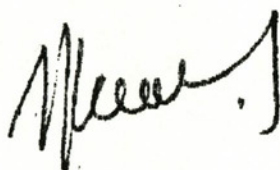
It has also come to our attention that a proposal will serve before the Negotiating Forum for incorporation into the interim constitution. The wording the CUP would have a strong preference for is the following:

- (a) *"Existing education legislation pertaining to all universities shall only be altered in consultation with the Committee of University Principals."*

(b) *Existing education legislation pertaining to individual universities shall only be altered in consultation with the controlling body of the university involved".*

It will be appreciated if the Negotiation Forum takes cognizance of these issues in finalising policy on the position of universities in a new dispensation.

Yours sincerely



Prof GJ Gerwel
CHAIRPERSON : COMMITTEE OF UNIVERSITY PRINCIPALS
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