

REPORT OF DEAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 23 MARCH, 1994 AT WITS:  
EDUCATION BUILDING, WEST CAMPUS, ROOM 163

**Present:** John Aitchison (Chairperson)  
Herman Kotze (in attendance)  
Robin Mackie  
Clive Millar  
Geoff Mokale  
Nompumelelo Nyandi (in attendance)  
Denzil Russell  
Shirley Seid (in attendance)  
Shirley Walters

**Apologies:** Ed French  
Elda Lyster

**1. OPENING**

John Aitchison acting as Master of Ceremonies, opened the meeting and called for apologies.

**2. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES**

Proposed: J. Aitchison  
Seconded: R. Mackie

**3. REPORT FROM NATIONAL OFFICE**

Mr Geoff Mokale reported that the National and individual proposals had not been forwarded to USAID as decided at the previous meeting - the reason being that none of the trustees had seen and/or homogenized the proposals as suggested at the last meeting. The meeting agreed that there was a management vacuum within the DEAL organization.

**4. REPORT FROM CHAIRPERSON**

The Chairperson, John Aitchison presented a report on his meeting with Sara Labaree (USAID). John stated that the possibility of DEAL getting continued funding from USAID was slender. This reasoning, he elaborated, was influenced by various observations; viz.:

- There seemed to be a shift in USAID's funding policy to fund tertiary institutions
- DEAL had failed to deliver. <sup>in terms of certain specifications</sup> John used ABEL as an example

of a sub-agency model which USAID had expected DEAL to emulate - an expectation which DEAL failed to live up to.

- John also pointed out that DEAL was funded (by USAID) from a Community Fund; an entirely different Fund from the one used to fund tertiary institutions. He cautioned, however, that the new USAID policy targeted historically black universities.

John, however, pointed out that USAID had not yet seen DEAL's new national proposal. Nevertheless, he concluded his report by presenting the following as future options for DEAL, viz.:

- DEAL meet with Dick Fennel to work out some kind of initiative
- DEAL expand and invite some of the historically black universities on board
- DEAL closes door

#### **5. HERMAN KOTZE: REPORT ON UNISA ABE PROGRAM**

Herman Kotze (Zenex Literacy Unit, Wits) reported that UNISA was intent on proceeding with its ABE distance education program despite intervention attempts by various ABE/ALBE organisations. Herman pointed out that UNISA intended training forty thousand individuals and hoped to finance the program through tuition fees. The CEPD, Herman explained, vowed to intervene in the commencement of the program. DEAL also expressed an interest in this issue and might want to provide a general curriculum for such initiatives.

#### **6. ON THE DEAL COLLOQUIUM**


The DEAL Colloquium (held 22 March, 1994, IEB Offices) was described as a success by the meeting. The meeting also viewed the Colloquium attendance as an indication of DEAL's political legitimacy, to an extent. Given the feelings about the Colloquium and its implication(s), the meeting suggested that DEAL make a bid for "something" in the new dispensation, or close doors.

#### **7. GENERAL MATTERS ARISING**

- Terms of reference drawn for prospective evaluators were discussed in detail and, thereafter, accepted.
- It was suggested that an evaluator be recruited promptly and his/her terms be discussed.

- It was suggested that some of the National Office's funds be used in constructing a comprehensive progress report which would inform and guide the evaluator.
- A sense of discontent was expressed about the nature and/or focus of the "revised" national proposal.
- The meeting suggested that someone, preferably a trustee, should manage the evaluation process and work closely with the evaluator.

## **8. DECISIONS**

- Prof. Peter Hunter to be approached and commissioned for the evaluation job.
- Gwyneth Tuchten to be approached and commissioned to construct an annual progress report. 
- Prof. Shirley Walters to do a follow-up with Ed French on Clive's document (national proposal).
- Geoffrey Mokale, in the national office, to work closely with the evaluator, providing him/her with access to relevant information.
- A short meeting be held the following day at the Inter-university conference (Lumko Conference Centre), to deal with the issue of proposals.

## **9. CLOSURE**

John Aitchison closed the meeting at 12:30 pm.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

NOTED that the date for the next meeting would be made known in due course