

FOREWORD

The Council on Higher Education initiated this project in 2003 with generous funding from the Rockefeller Foundation. The original plan was to launch a review of higher education which was to appear every three years to take stock of the most important trends identified in the higher education system in South Africa against the backdrop of trends and changes identifiable in other higher education systems in developed and developing countries.

The transformation and restructuring of higher education in South Africa spans a number of issues, research into which could illuminate the intellectual, political and strategic concerns of a range of stakeholders. This book is a selection of papers on some of those issues, to some extent reflecting the responses of authors to the CHE's call for proposals. The CHE continues to address a number of issues related to the transformation and restructuring of higher education through a range of investigations and publications.

Because each chapter of the review was going to be research-based, the Council on Higher Education proposed to the Rockefeller Foundation that the project should also be used as a capacity development opportunity for a new generation of researchers in the field of higher education. This was agreed to. The funds provided helped to support ten postgraduate students at the masters and doctoral level who were part of the research teams.

The Council on Higher Education appointed an editorial committee consisting of experienced scholars and academic managers from the higher education system. This committee took intellectual responsibility for the direction of the project. A project management team from the Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate of the CHE provided coordination, administrative and technical support to the editorial team and the six research groups which responded to the call for papers made by the CHE.

Special thanks are due to the research teams and the editorial committee for their commitment and hard work and to the CHE appointed manager of the project, Mr Thierry Luescher, for his unfaltering support. The book would not have seen the light of day without the persistence and hard work of Dr Lis Lange of the CHE.

This book is the final product of an exercise which, for many reasons, including capacity, took much longer than expected. The CHE hopes that this publication will generate further discussion and research among higher education analysts, and officials from higher education and government. It is also hoped that the non-specialist public will find it useful to understand specific aspects of changes that have taken place in South African higher education since 1997.

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