

# Abridged Curriculum Vitae

## Fiona Bulman

<b>Name:</b>	Fiona A Bulman	<b>Date of birth:</b>	14.09.1946
<b>Profession:</b>	Education Development, Higher Education, Distance Education, Adult and Further Education and training	<b>Nationality:</b>	South African
<b>Years of experience:</b>	30 years		

### **Key qualifications:**

#### **Education:**

BA, University of Natal, 1967  
Higher Diploma in Education, University of Natal 1968  
Diploma in Adolescent Development, London, 1974  
MEd (Higher Education), University of Natal, 1997.

#### **Membership:**

National Association of Distance Education Open Learning of South Africa.

#### **Experience record:**

##### **Details of work in previous position as Coordinator of Open Learning Network**

Seconded to work with Professor Bawa designing and implementing an Open Learning Programme<sup>1</sup> on the Pietermaritzburg Campus 1997.

##### **a) Conceptualisation and Policy Development**

1997

- Developed a proposal for the establishment of Open Learning
- Secured funding from Ford for SAIDE (South African Institute for Distance Education) evaluation of University readiness for mixed mode delivery.
- Established the Open Learning Working Group to act as a think tank of individuals interested in developing open learning at the University.
- Represented the University of Natal at the second International Conference on Lifelong Learning, Ontario Canada, March 1997.

1998

- Undertook research into administration systems and infrastructure across the University to identify changes needed in order to integrate open learning and mixed mode delivery into the main operations of the University.

##### **b) Establishment of Academic Programmes suitable for mixed mode delivery**

1998

- Developed successful proposal to JET for funding for further evaluation on potential for development of School for Rural Development Certificate in Rural Community Development for delivery in mixed mode.
- As member of the evaluation reference group, participated in the process that resulted in the development of the Participatory Development Certificate in Education currently being run in the Centre for Adult Education.

<sup>1</sup> Open Learning provides flexible learning programmes that meet the needs of students who cannot study on-campus 5 days a week 26 weeks per year for three to four years in order to complete degrees (off-campus students who need to be able to study after working hours and from a base other than the University campus).

1999

- Facilitated the establishment of Pietermaritzburg and Durban mixed mode programmes in Community Development and the first two off-campus centres for mixed mode delivery in February 2000.
- Appointed and trained local agents with site visits monitoring and supporting registration processes.
- Initiated discussions with Central Applications office, Student Academic Affairs offices, Student Fees and Faculty offices to establish off-campus registration systems.
- Provided support for development of appropriate modules and materials for 2000 programme including negotiations with Faculties regarding resources and focus.

2000

- Initiated recruitment for mature students in off-campus centre regions including presentations on the current status of the University for Alumni functions in Eastern Cape and Northern KwaZulu Natal. Engaged with community leadership presenting the University' .
- Motivated for Assistant Coordinator, developed job description and provided orientation for incumbent
- Set administrative procedures in place to handle off-campus operations (including registration and examinations)

2001 - 2006

- Incorporated major development of School of Education, Training and Development into Open Learning infrastructure for the delivery of the National Professional Diploma in Education in KwaZulu Natal and the Eastern Cape
- Refined student management information gathering and registration procedures for off-campus students through roundtable discussions that included representations from all sectors concerned with registration (i.e. Information technology, Fees, Faculty Offices, and Risk Management)
- Identified suitable venues and negotiated leases and payment for 7 sites with school principals and governing bodies
- Undertook selection, appointment and training of 7 local agents with particular emphasis on need to be flexible and pick up on emergency ad hoc procedures being developed by the school concerned.
- Undertook registration of students in 7 sites through Open Learning.
- Developed documentation for a review of mixed mode delivery systems in the University and drafting of scenarios for future structure and location of Open Learning, and allocation of resources.
- Developed motivations and budget estimates for the relocation of academic responsibility and resources to relevant Faculties, and for increase of resources for Open Learning to undertake management of major off-campus delivery infrastructure.
- Undertook further training for local agents including as chief invigilators for off-campus exams.
- Provide ongoing staff development for team of local agents and administrative staff in the University who work with the programmes.
- Established systems for the inclusion of the Decentralised Nursing Programme into Open Learning (a self funding continuing education programme for nurses offered both part-time on Durban campus and through off-campus centres).
- Provided support in the process of materials development for the NAMDEV project spearheaded by REPSSI and Unicef in support of work undertaken by individuals within the School of Psychology
- Initiated discussions later taken up by the Research office of UKZN around the development of an "African Centre for Childhood". This lead to a memorandum of understanding between UKZN, UNICEF and REPSSI around the establishment of such a centre.

2007 Designed and established the infrastructure within the University for the Distance Honours in Accounting programme accredited by the South African Institute for Chartered Accountants.

2008 Appointed as consultant to design and establish the delivery of the UNICEF/REPSSI distance programme for volunteers and aid workers working with children at risk in 6 African countries.

### ***Conference presentations***

- Presented a paper at the International Conference on Lifelong Learning, organised by the

University of the Western Cape, in October 2000.

- Invited to present paper "Transformation at the University of Natal" at a workshop on Institutional Transformation in the Public Sector, held at Sandton International Conference Centre, in August 2001.
- Invited to present paper at the Annual meeting of Partners in Higher Education for International Development, Washington August 2002.
- Contracted by the World Bank to develop and present a case study of Open Learning at the University of Natal for a panel at the Tertiary Education Conference "Tertiary Education in Africa – What Works" Accra September 2003.

#### ***Membership of national bodies***

- Participated on behalf of the University of Natal in SAIDE-convened working group to develop a response to the Higher Education Report and the Green Paper in relation to Open and Distance Learning (1997).
- Member of National Department of Education Reference Group for the Development of Quality Standards in Distance Education (1997).
- Worked on Organising Committee for South African/USA Partnerships Conference - Cape Town and Durban (1998).
- Represented University of Natal in National Association of Distance Educators of S A, (NADEOSA) (1999 -2006).
- Member of the National Department of Education Reference Group for Research into Open Learning in General Education and Further Education and Training (1999).
- Elected to National Association of Distance Educators of S A Executive Committee (1999 – 2006).
- Member of the Management Committee and the Logistics Committee for the Pan Commonwealth Forum on Distance Learning held in Durban in August 2002 (2001- 2002).
- Represented the University of Natal on the South African University Vice Chancellors' Association Reference group on Learning Delivery Models in Higher Education preparing a document for discussions with the Minister of Education (2002 –2003).
- President of NADEOSA August 2003 –2005.

#### ***Other Higher Education Institutions***

Member of Provincial Committee of Council of Technikon SA (2000 – 2004 when the committee was disbanded as part of the merger process).