

## VIRTUAL ACADEMY: January to July 2024

### Activities Engaged In

Aspect	Activity
Virtual Academy Steering Committee (VAS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VASC was established, and 2 meetings have been held to date. This committee is working very well and is committed to enabling the work of the VA.</li> </ul>
Funding application for Director position from Professors Project and Job Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An application was developed to fund the Director position from the Professors Project. The application was approved by MANCO, ECS and Senate. A draft job has been developed for the Professor of Human-Technology Interaction (HTI). The position will be advertised in the second semester of 2024.</li> </ul>
Financial plan for the Virtual Academy and its projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The multi-dimensional project: Information has been gathered through the office of the Dean LT, regarding the resourcing of online qualification development, delivery, and administrative, ICT, and student support.</li> <li>VASC has embraced the fact that the Virtual Academy will evolve in a resource-constrained environment, which should inform the choices made. Consequently, the work of the VA could serve as a model for digital competence development and innovations in resource-constrained settings, which would align well with university's engagement focus.</li> <li>Developing the funding strategy for the VA is a key priority in the second semester.</li> </ul>
Human Technology Interaction 5 <sup>th</sup> Signature Project of Institutional Culture Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Human Technology Interaction along with the mindset change efforts needed has become the 5th Signature Project of the Institutional Culture Project (termed i-Human). This will be launched in semester 2.</li> </ul>
Multi-dimensional project re online qualifications and SLP development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Together with Hep Africa the following online qualifications are being developed - B IT, B PsychTech (that involves 7 departments across 5 faculties), MBA, and Advanced Diploma TVT.</li> <li>HEP Africa are providing training and consultancy opportunities. A webinar was offered in July was well attended, especially by academics. A further workshop on e-assessment approaches and how to do this securely will be held shortly.</li> <li>Online SLPs - the online Global Digital Citizenship SLP for students is under development (2 of the 8 units completed. Being piloted with a group of students)</li> <li>Virtual campus – ongoing discussions re online admin, financial, learner support and LIS systems, ICT infrastructure and external Moodle instance; etc.</li> <li>Challenges experienced – funding models are needed as this will go a long way to address capacity concerns and constraints.</li> </ul>
Establish a community of practice (CoP)	VASC approved the initiation of an AI CoP with Prof van Greunen as CoP leader. This will be actioned in semester 2.
Website for the Virtual Academy	The content for a Virtual Academy webpage has been provided to the Digital Comms team and the site is being populated. This will enhance information sharing and communication.
Digital wellness	A focus on digital wellness is included as part of the VA's contribution to the integrated health and wellness strategy that is being developed
Launch of the Virtual Academy	The VA launch is a standing item on the VA Steercom agenda. A map of milestones that need to be reached before the launch will be considered by VASC in August