

Meet Our Presenter

MANIE REGAL

Executive Director: Finance and Operations
Chief Financial Officer & Chief Operating Officer
University of the Western Cape (UWC)



TOPIC

*Student debt: A Shared Responsibility
for a Sustainable Higher Education Sector*



Manie Regal is the Executive Director: Finance and Operations at the University of the Western Cape (UWC), a role also encompassing the functions of Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer. He has led UWC's financial and operational strategy since 2003, steering the institution from financial distress to sustained fiscal health.

A Chartered Accountant (SA) with a Master's in Finance Development Studies from UWC, Mr Regal brings deep expertise in institutional finance, credit management, and revenue diversification, having overseen the university's budgeting, treasury, audit, and student debt collection functions for over two decades.

He served on many boards in the public sector and notably as the former Chair of the Finance Executive Forum, a community of practice of the Universities South Africa (USAf), giving him a sector-wide perspective on the financial sustainability challenges facing South African higher education institutions.



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CONFERENCE CENTRE
Cape Town, Western Cape

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ANNUAL CONFERENCE & AGM

THEME:

Financial Sustainability: Navigating South Africa's Student Debt Regulatory Landscape
and Sustainable Student Funding and Collection Solutions



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STUDENT DEBT

**A shared responsibility for a
sustainable higher education
sector (PSET)**



UNIVERSITY *of the*
WESTERN CAPE

Manie Regal ED: Finance and Operations

**23.5 years
26 500 students
R4bn turnover**



Reflections

- We don't talk any more
- Tendency of "Free"
- Culture of Demands
- Taking the gap
- Dependencies
- Fiscus is in trouble
- NSFAS an estranged old friend
- Qausi-Fee Regulation



Challenges

- Prescription
- Summons
- Ignorance
- National Credit Act
- Scale of debt
- Missing middle
- Perception of debt by South Africans
- Missing middle



Challenges

- Lease craze
- Gross debt and ECLs
- Graduated with debt?
- Perverse incentive on NSFAS student accommodation capping
- NSFAS keeping pace?
- What will happen if NSFAS collapses
- PPPs the way forward for student accommodation?
- Funding formula- requires reform
- Is the change of the funding model forced?



Shared Responsibility

- Community engagement
- State responsibility (DHET and National Treasury)
- Inter-University-Institution
- Consistency

Conclusion

- Which side of history do you want to be
- Stakeholders- stop criticising each other
- Consistent approach
- Fiscal discipline



THANK YOU



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