



UNIVERSITY OF  
KWAZULU-NATAL<sup>TM</sup>  
INYUVESI  
YAKWAZULU-NATALI

School of Mathematics, Statistics  
and Computer Science

# TOWARDS EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING MATHEMATICS CONFERENCE

**Date:**

**Thursday, 26 January 2017**

**Venue:**

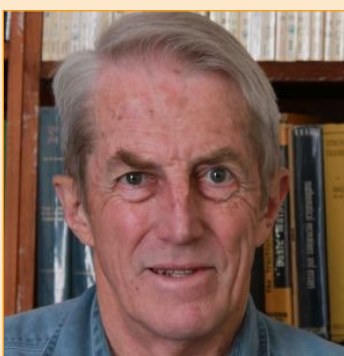
**Unite Building,**

Gate 3, Rick Turner Avenue, Howard College Campus, University of KwaZulu-Natal

With universities nationally increasingly embracing corporate principles of governance and management, serious questions emerge on what constitutes effective teaching in the University sector. There exists an inordinate fixation on being able to measure any and every academic activity. This has severe ramifications for the teaching of fundamental subjects such as mathematics. Invariably, a dichotomy between how evidence of effective teaching is presented as opposed to actual classroom practice comes to the fore. The situation is exacerbated by non-experts being called upon to pass judgements on teaching of areas where they have little or no qualifications in under the guise of institution-wide fairness. This state of affairs threatens to have untold negative repercussions on an already stressed academy and in due course will manifest itself in lowered standards of education. These are some of the aspects we intend probing at the meeting. In addition, South Africa has seen an unprecedented call from young people to 'decolonise' the broader curriculum. What are the implications for the way mathematics is taught going forward? It is hoped that delegates will debate these ideas at the meeting.

## PLENARY SPEAKERS

*We are pleased to announce that following distinguished mathematics teachers, who amongst themselves boast over 150 years of accumulated teaching wisdom, have accepted our invitation to serve as plenary speakers:*



**Professor John Webb**  
(University of Cape Town)



**Professor Loyiso Nongxa**  
(University of Witwatersrand)



**Professor Johann Engelbrecht**  
(University of Pretoria)



**Professor Poobhalan Pillay**  
(University of KwaZulu Natal)

## REGISTRATION

There is no registration fee. Lunches, teas and a conference dinner at the Royal Natal Yacht Club (Durban) will be provided to all delegates at no cost. As the conference is expected to be small, we will use a manual system of registration. A pdf form is appended.

**Kindly complete the form and email to: [hansrajs@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:hansrajs@ukzn.ac.za)**

**Closing date for all registrations: 9 January 2017**

## TALKS

In addition to the plenary talks mentioned above, there will be some panel discussions. Some delegates may wish to present short talks of up to 20 minutes duration (15 + 5) on any aspect of the teaching of university mathematics. For logistical reasons, we will be grateful to receive all abstracts of contributed talks by **12 January 2016**. All abstracts of selected talks will be made available in pdf format online.

## Organising Committee:

**Chair: Sudan Hansraj** ([hansrajs@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:hansrajs@ukzn.ac.za)); **Sunil Maharaj** ([maharaj@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:maharaj@ukzn.ac.za)); **Paran Pillay** ([pillaypi@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:pillaypi@ukzn.ac.za));  
**Bernardo Rodrigues** ([rodrigues@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:rodrigues@ukzn.ac.za)); **Kavilan Moodley** ([Kavilan.moodley@gmail.com](mailto:Kavilan.moodley@gmail.com)); **Anesh Maharaj** ([maharaja@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:maharaja@ukzn.ac.za))

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