

Vice-Chancellor's Office

Sandiswa Imbewu ('We are growing/multiplying our seeds') Fund

On the basis of the 9 September 2010 recommendation of the University Council, the Rhodes University Board of Governors on 4 November 2010 endorsed the creation of the Sandiswa Imbewu ('We are growing/multiplying our seeds') Fund to fund strategic new academic initiatives.

R 12.5 million has been pledged over the next 5 years.

Rhodes operates in an increasingly competitive environment, especially *vis a vis* other South African universities that are loosely termed 'research' universities.

A key constraint has been that important new strategic initiatives related to identified new goals and priorities cannot always be effectively pursued because of the unavailability of funds.

The Sandiswa Imbewu Fund is intended to provide the University the seed funding to effectively pursue new strategic initiatives of an academic nature.

It is proposed that, as far as possible, the initiatives that should be supported should be of a nature that facilitates:

- The consolidation and enhancement of current areas of academic excellence at Rhodes
- Ventures into new academic and research areas, especially at the postgraduate level, and
- The timely exploitation of new opportunities that can enhance research and knowledge production and the quality of graduates produced

It is further proposed that the initiatives should, as far as possible, be of the kind that can

- Bring in additional subsidy funding through enhanced postgraduate and/or research outputs
- Leverage other sources of funding for postgraduate and research programmes
- Become sustainable after initial seed funding.

The Vice-Chancellor's Budget Committee will manage the Sandiswa Imbewu Fund and be guided in grant-making by the University's Institutional Development Plan and the decisions of the Institutional Planning Committee and, ultimately, the Senate and Council of the University.

The Sandiswa Imbewu Fund will report annually to the University Council and the Board of Governors.

Action: IPC needs to agree on the criteria that will guide grant-making from the Sandiswa Imbewu Fund and also the processes and procedures that will be used for grant-making.