

FACULTY/DIVISION:  
2<sup>nd</sup> / ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021

Date: 25 November 2021

**A. Notable Achievements/Events/ Staff Development/Visitors**

The Faculty's participation in the South African Education Research Association's conference was a highlight involving staff and students across disciplines. The SAERA conference is the premier national research conference in Education and this year's event was organised by Wits University (9-12 November). No fewer than 29 Rhodes staff and students presented papers, two books published out of the Faculty were launched, and Distinguished Prof Heila Lotz-Sisitka of the ELRC did a keynote address. Our post-graduate students participated actively by organising and chairing panels as well as presenting. The Faculty also co-hosted the International Association for Critical Realism's international conference and the National Environmental Skills Summit in September. These events promoted our research, stimulate further research, and may attract new scholars to the University (Strategic Goals 1, 3, 5, 7)

The Faculty elected a Deputy Dean and is making good progress to establishing two new departments in line with its transformation and other strategic objectives.

**B. Challenges/Risks**

Data provisioning accommodating Educational students' particular needs (part on, part off campus), the limited ICT capability of some students along with load shedding and technology failures, presented challenges ahead of and during the online examinations. We will work to strengthen students' ICT skills and improve liaison between Faculty and Support divisions.

Staff getting strained by adversarial social media postings by students feeling wronged by the University create a risk of undue pressure, that needs to be carefully managed.