

North-West Business School: Terms of Reference

The North-West Business School has embarked on the establishment of a regular Think Tank from among its staff members, associated researchers and specialist and invited guests. This Think Tank will meet regularly and will discuss national issues and management challenges in a multi-disciplinary way.

1. Purpose

- The purpose of this Think Tank is to expand the existing image of the North-West Business School and to encourage debate.
- It is also a project to provide a tangible image of the developing autonomy of the Business School within the NWU-system.
- The Think Tank must contribute to the forming of opinions of business leaders on critical challenges facing South Africa.
- The Think Tank must establish its relevancy in the business sector.
- The Think Tank must become a platform for collaboration with internal and external stakeholders of the NWU.
- Developing a research agenda and expanding business School network.
- Our clients are our staff, MBA students, media, government and business.
- The Think Tank can also play a major role in bringing the MBA Alumni closer to the School

2. Name

The name of the think tank or platform will be “Racing towards the Future”. However, in the first year we will use the subtitle of “The outlines of a post-Covid society”.

3. Design

The Think Tank will have three component parts i.e.

- Covid-19 Platform (Think Tank) Getting to the Future First.
- Regular Zoom sessions hosted on regular issues such as PUI.
- YouTube video clips and major events and guest lectures.

- Annual interviews with best students
- Interview international research
- Interview School Director / Advisory Board
- The Think Tank will be hosted by a moderator/facilitator and the planning committee will nominate that person.
- Primary guest speaker or speakers will be invited for each meeting.
- A panel when appropriate (Sensitive selection)
- Audience/Participants:
 - MBA students
 - Internal and external stakeholders
 - Invited guests
 - Media
 - MBA Alumni

4. Structure

The Think Tank will be managed by 'n Planning Committee appointed annually by the Business School Board and chaired by the Director of the Business School or his nominee. It will be assisted by an Administrative group of two or three people dedicated with the practical arrangements and invitation.

During the Covid-19 crisis the Think Tank will meet through Zoom of similar video-conferencing but plan the meet when possible not only in Potchefstroom but also on the other campuses as well as other venues.

5. Rules of interaction

The moderator will determine the flow of the debates and discussions when the Think Tank and will make sure that the debates are inclusive and that all viewpoints be aired and debated fairly. He or she will also guide the Think Tank towards a conclusion and summary of events of issues.

6. Topics and themes of discussion

The following themes may be considered, among others, in Think Tank discussions:

- The economic challenges.
- New trends in business management.

- Marketing in the post-Covid world.
- The Future of Sport and recreation.
- The challenge and future of Black Economic Empowerment;
- The future of Food Security and Agriculture;
- The future of Local Government;
- Covid-19 and the challenge of corruption and state capture;
- The future of tourism;
- The future of Higher Education in a Post-Covid environment;
- The future of SOE's and Eskom
- The Zondo Commission and State Capture.

7. Output

The Think Tank will serve the School in a research capacity by identifying topics for research in policy and related management issues and will produce a press release following each meeting. The Planning Committee will also provide an annual report of its activities for the Business School. The most important output will be to enhance the Business School network and to make the NW Business School relevant in its activities.