



Evaluation student panel
Session 1
9/4/2015

Objective

A Friends for Life student panel is formed to receive feedback from the beneficiaries from the Friends for Life Foundation in order to improve the current way of working and align the future policies as much as possible with the demands of the target group of Friends for Life Foundation.

Panel set up

- Every panel session consists of 5 students
- Panel consists only of students that are or have been in the programme of Friends for Life Foundation
- Mix of students in different study years or graduated students
- A panel of 5 students will be active for one year, organising at least 3 meetings
- Every year a new panel is recruited

The student panel in 2015 is the first student panel at Friends for Life. The panel consists of a chairman, a secretary, an organiser and two members.

Recruitment and preparation of panel

A vacancy sent out to all studying and graduated students brought in around 15 application of students who wanted to be involved in the first student panel held in Nairobi. A panel had been selected based on motivation and background. The students were given instructions regarding the organisation and preparation of the event. The venue was facilitated by Nairobi University, Parklands campus, Faculty of Law. The chairman organised a video camera to record the full session. The student panel came up with a list of 10 subjects they proposed for the student panel meetings of which two were selected for the first session. The first session was monitored and guided by management of Friends for Life.

Panel discussion

After a brief introduction, the panel started their discussion about the subjects to select for the first panel session. The following topics were chosen in consultation with the management of Friends for Life:

- Criteria for selection of new students
- Creation of alumni structure

The discussions went well and the students were able to go into the subjects in dept with some guidance and directions. The session lasted for around three hours. The student panel started up a 'whats-app' social group and are still in daily contact by sending each other interesting information regarding their studies, new job vacancies and other social interaction.

Recommendation

The secretary prepared meeting minutes after the session, which have been translated into concrete recommendations for the Friends for Life board:

NR	Point of discussion	Action(s) to be taken
1	Criteria for selection of new students	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. In order to be able to determine neediness better through the head teachers (as this seems to be the most informed person) it is recommended that around 60% of the accepted students are students about to start studies and a maximum of 40% are applicants that already started their studies in tertiary education (the percentage of this is currently much higher).2. Students or applicants should declare other sources of funding such as HELB (mostly student with a mean average grade 'A' receive an immediate bursary), bursaries and other sponsorship programs. This to make sure that the student does not receive funds from multiple institutions.



		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> There should be a limit set on the amount of money that can be used per student during one academic year. Such that one student does not spend a significant amount on the expense of other students. There should only be a limited number of students selected that choose for a privately sponsored course as these courses are relatively expensive. The privately sponsored studies to be accepted depend on the type of course.
2	Creation of an alumni structure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A formal alumni association should be established, it should be affiliated with the organisation. The alumni association should have its own: name, logo, its objectives and its own account. It should be a separate entity but guided and consulted by the foundation. The purpose of the alumni association should be to maintain the network of all students who have been beneficiaries of the foundation. The alumni association should have an open communication channel where members can be able to communicate freely through face-to-face, but also through Social Media, such as Facebook, Twitter and whatsapp. The alumni association should be in the future able to carry out its own projects under the guidance of the foundation. The contribution by students should not stop after students finish paying off their loans. All students who have benefited from the foundation should be encouraged to join the Alumni association. The alumni association should be initiated by a group of current alumni. There should be an election of leaders that take ownership of the alumni association. There could be a start up budget from the foundation but the remaining financial funds should be raised through contributions and fundraising initiatives by the alumni. The Alumni association should brand their own organisation and make sure that the alumni of FFL are interested to join.

