ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES
UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT
AFRICAN STUDENTS’ LEADERSHIP & CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

Nigeria

25th – 28th September, 2018
Concept Paper

A. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Undoubtedly, students form an integral part and mostly, the largest component of every university worldwide. Students constitute the majority compared to faculty, administrative and support staff. Therefore, while the success of every university depends on the strength and quality of its administrative and teaching staff, yet management and administration of the student body is key to the survival of any higher education institution.

Historically, students have had limited role in the organizational structure or governance of colleges and universities in Africa. Over the years, university administrators have followed a practice of “in loco parentis”, an educational philosophy that has led university administrators and faculty members to oversee the academic advancement and personal conduct of their students very closely. Students have always been at the receiving end of major university decisions and directives. Decisions about students’ academic and personal development were mostly taken without the active participation of the students themselves. However, these trends are increasing changing where greater emphasis is placed on student involvement in decision making in the universities. The heightened social and intellectual autonomy available to students has encouraged them to seek greater involvement in university governance and administrative affairs.

Students’ interest in university organization and governance has increased significantly. A degree of student participation on university boards, search committees, and faculty senates has become commonplace. Many universities in Africa now include student representatives in either an advisory or on the boards of trustees, councils and committees. A lot of universities in Africa today have recognized the role students play in transforming their universities. As such, they have placed and positioned them strategically in governance.

Students often have their own network of parallel undergraduate and graduate
governance structure such as Students Representative Council headed by a president and elected executives. These elected leaders represent and serve the best interest of students during decision making processes in the universities. In some universities in Africa, student leaders have collaborated with the university authorities to provide infrastructural development, good and sound academic environment, assist in resource mobilization, to mention a few. For example, there are cases where student representative councils have built academic and residential facilities on their campuses from their dues to compliment the university managements’ efforts to maintain standards in teaching, learning and research.

Despite these success stories, there are also worry trends where student leaders have been chastised by their peers and university managers for mismanagement and embezzlement of funds. This challenge has always emanated from three angles; the quality of the leaders elected; the environment and conditions under which they operate; and the type of management systems. Universities with quality and competent student leaders who are given the space to operate in a harmonious and non-intimidating environment with excellent supervision and support from senior management always produce good results and vice versa.

The Association of African Universities (AAU) has 50 years’ experience in providing leadership and management training to both senior and middle staff of African universities such as vice chancellors, rectors, presidents, council members, deans, heads of department, bursars, directors of centres and institutes, faculty and some other key stakeholders. These trainings have yielded fruitful results in the management of universities and other higher education institutions in Africa and would want to extend this service to student leaders in Africa.

With 50 years’ experience in delivering leadership and management capacity development trainings, the AAU acknowledges the relevance and value of student leaders and the contributions they can bring to their universities if well-resourced. The AAU, therefore, encourages all vice-chancellors and heads of higher education institutions to sponsor their student leaders to participate in the African Students’ Leadership and Capacity Development Training Programme. The training will equip the student leaders with the soft skills they need to effectively and efficiently manage their constituencies and to relate well with the university leadership.

**B. OBJECTIVES**

The African Students’ Leadership and Capacity Development Training Programme seeks to equip student leaders with the soft skills they need to operate in a modern academic environment. The specific objectives of the training include:

❖ Equipping student leaders with the knowledge and skills needed to administer student bodies.

*AAU*
Equipping student leaders with the knowledge and skills needed to provide support to university management and administration

Empowering young leaders to be responsive, efficient, and innovative in order to achieve the “Africa we want” by 2063.

C. EXPECTED OUTCOMES
It is expected that at the end of the workshop participants would have been:

❖ Equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to administer student bodies.

❖ Equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to provide support to university management and administration.

❖ Empowered to be responsive, efficient, and innovative in order to achieve the “Africa we want” by 2063.

D. WORKSHOP MODULES
The workshop modules will include:

1. Strategic Leadership and University Governance: Students perspective
2. Strategic Leadership and Accountability
3. Strategic Thinking, Planning and Student Policy Implementation
4. Ethics and Antics of Student leadership
5. Student Leadership and University Management Partnerships
6. Personality Development, Branding and Team Building
7. Effective Communication and Presentation Skill
8. Financial Management, Budgeting and Financial Integrity
9. Performance Appraisal and Reporting
10. Student support services and Financial Aids
11. Student Leadership and Corruption
13. Hooliganism and crime prevention on University campus.
14. Student Academic Mobility and Quality Assurance
15. Agenda 2063 and the role of student leaders
16. Gender Mainstreaming in Higher Education

E. DATE AND VENUE
The training will be held from Tuesday, 25th August to Friday, 28th September, 2018 at the University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria.

Arrival of participants is on Monday, 24th September, 2018.

F. WORKING LANGUAGE
The working language of the workshop is English.

G. CONFERENCE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

The AAU has set up a three-member Organising Committee whose membership comprises the following:

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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H. REGISTRATION

Participants are required to register for this workshop via the link below: https://www.research.net/r/SLCBTNIGERIA

Registration fee per participant is **USD 300** and covers the workshop documents, lunch and tea/coffee breaks as well as a copy of conference proceedings. Participants required to make payment for the workshop latest by **Tuesday 11th September, 2018**.

I. MODE OF PAYMENT

Confirmed participants are required to pay the workshop registration fee into the account below:

**US Dollar Account**

**Account Name:** CVC/AAU  
**Account Number:** 0731023358  
**Bank:** Access Bank PLC  
**Branch:** PPPRA  
**Address:** Plot 1012, Cadastral Zone, Central Business District, FCT Abuja, Nigeria

An alternative Naira account is provided below:

**Naira Account**

**Account Name:** CVC/AAU  
**Account Number:** 0731023358
J. WORKSHOP DOCUMENT

Workshop documents will be shared in soft copy prior to the event, with paid up participants only. It is therefore important that all participants endeavour to carry along their laptops for their own use as there will be no hard copies available.

K. COST OF TRAVEL, ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

Participants are responsible for their travel to and from Nigeria. Group lunches and tea/coffee breaks for the workshop will be covered by the registration fee.

L. ACCOMMODATION

Participants will be accommodated at the University of Port Harcourt Hostel at a subsidised rate of two thousand naira (N2,000.00) per night, a total of ten thousand naira ($30) for the five nights.

Training Moderator
Kwesi Acquah Sam
Association of African Universities- 2018

Thank You