

Final Conference Program

Wednesday, 13 May 2026	
08:00 – 09:30	Registration Board Members and Peet du Plessis
09:30 – 09:50	Conference announcements Peet du Plessis – AAA GM
09:50 – 10:10	Welcome by the Acting Chairperson of the Board Mr Ashmind Daniels, Stellenbosch University
Session 1: Plenary 10:10 – 11:00	Opening address: Mr Luthando Jack, DVC: People and Operations, Nelson Mandela University... Session chair: Mr Peet du Plessis – AAA GM
11:00 – 11:30	Morning tea-break
Session 2: Plenary 11:30 – 12:30	Keynote address: The Honourable Dr Mimmy Gondwe, Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training. Session chair: Mr Ashmind Daniels, Stellenbosch University
12:45 – 14:10	Lunch
Session 3: 14:10 – 15:20 Break-away group discussions	Break-away Group A: Plenary Room Facilitators: Mr Ashmind Daniels (AAA Board) Break-away Group B: Room C1 Facilitators: Mr Preggy Reddy and Ms Ncamisile Thwala (AAA Board Members) Break-away Group C: Room C2 Facilitators: Ms Ranitha Ramdeyal (AAA Board Member) & Mr Peet du Plessis (GM)
	Break-away Group A: “AI, Biometric ID and Identity” – <i>Advanced Secure Technologies</i> Break-away Group B: <i>Guardians of Authenticity: Rethinking Qualifications Verification in the Age of AI.</i> Discussion leader: Ms Kgaugelo Ntini - Verifications Officer, UP. Break-away Group C: <i>Proactive, People-Centred, and Plugged-In: A Multi-Phase Model for Student Advising and Quality Assurance.</i> Discussion leader: Ms Shameega Couert, Administrative Officer: Undergraduate, UWC
15:20 – 15:45	Afternoon tea-break
Session 4: 15:45 – 16:45 Break-away groups continued	Break-away Group A: <i>Enhancing Academic Administration Through Artificial Intelligence.</i> Discussion leader: Ms Linda van Heerden, Administrative Officer, UWC Break-away Group B: <i>Should administrators use AI to help streamline work processes?</i> Discussion leader: Mr Vernon Johannes – Projects Officer, UWC Break-away Group C: <i>Beyond the Search Bar: Mastering Prompting and Navigating Licensing Hurdles in Academic Administration.</i> Discussion leader: Mr Tsholofelo Nkoane – Departmental Administrator, University of Pretoria
18:30 – 22:00 Welcome and teambuilding	Team building night – Quiz night Light buffet dinner served from 19:00 to 20:00 whereafter the quiz will commence. All delegates will be allocated to a team of 10 person per table to compete in the quiz. The teams will be displayed on the entrance door. Exciting prizes to be won! Cash bar service – delegates’ own accounts
Thursday, 14 May 2026	
07:30 – 08:30	Breakfast at your hotel of stay.

Commencement of day 2 08:30 – 08:45	Delegates to take up their places in the 3 break-away groups of their choice.
Session 5: 08:45 – 10:15 Break-away groups continued	Break-away group discussions Break-away Group A: <i>A Framework for ERP System Implementations in Academic Administration: Lessons Learned and the Way Forward.</i> Discussion leaders: Mr Anban Naidoo, Deputy Registrar, UFS & Mr Ashmind Daniels, Deputy Registrar, SU. Break-away Group B: <i>Navigating Change in Academic Administration: Ethical and Professional Challenges of AI in Higher Education.</i> Discussion leader: Nomampondomise Makengo - Administrative Assistant, UWC. Break-away Group C: <i>Best practices and how the role of AI contributed to technological changes which has resulted in the increase in the turnaround time for administrative processes.</i> Discussion leaders: Karen Sallie and Marion Kisten – Consultants: Student Academic Services, UKZN
Session 6: Plenary room 10:15 – 11:00	Feedback from Break-away groups (15 min each) Facilitated by Peet du Plessis.
11:00 – 11:30	Morning tea-break
Session 7: Promotional presentation – Gold sponsor 11:30 – 12:10	Advanced Secure Technologies – UK & Southern Africa Mr Kevin Bassett – Managing Director - Global Mrs Georgina Lee – Director - Global Mrs Mihloti Mkhathswa – Regional Director – Southern Africa  Lucky draw – Sponsored by Advanced Secure Technologies
Session 8: Paper presentation 12:20 – 13:05	Topic: <i>Academic Administration in Transition: Reimagining Support, Strategy, and Human Capacity in the Age of Artificial Intelligence.</i> Presenter: Mr Anthony Phaahlamohlake – Operational & Project Manager, Unisa Session chair: Ms Ranitha Ramdeyal, Board member
13:05 – 14:15	Lunch
Session 9: Paper presentation 14:15 – 15:10	Topic: <i>The Governance Gap: Navigating the Ethical and Regulatory Realities of AI-Powered Proctoring in SA Higher Education.</i> Presenter: Mr Tsholofelo Nkoane – Departmental Administrator, University of Pretoria Session chair: Mr Preggy Reddy, AAA Board member
15:10 – 15:30	Refreshments
Session 10: Paper presentation 15:30 – 16:30	Topic: <i>Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education Administration: A framework for Enhancing Efficiency, Time Management, and Institutional Support.</i> Presenter: Mr Chad Frans, Directorate of Learning, Teaching and Student Success, UWC Session chair: Ms Ncamisile Thwala, AAA Board member
16:30 – 16:45	Summary of the day AAA Vice Chairperson: Mr Ashmind Daniels
19:00 – 23:30	Gala Dinner & Dance at The Boardwalk – Theme: A PINK PARTY – in support of the fight against breast cancer that is to receive a donation from the AAA of R5 000. Dress code: Smart or traditional with a touch of PINK

	 <p>Limited number of bottles of wine are provided per table with jugs of juice and bottled water. All other drinks are a cash bar basis.</p> <p>Dinner hosts: Mr Ashmind Daniels and Ms Ranitha Ramdeyal Adjudication panel for prizes: Mr Preggy Reddy and Ms Ncamisile Thwala</p>
Friday, 15 May 2026	
07:00 – 08:45	Breakfast - Delegates to check out and store luggage at receptions
Session 11: 08:45 – 09:45	Promotional presentations by sponsors / exhibitors –  Lucky draw
Session 12: Guest speaker 09:45 – 10:40	Ms Leigh Kilpert , Head of Education and Student Experience, University College London, representing AHEP(UK) Title: <i>“Avengers Assemble! Working together and valuing professional services staff expertise in programme planning and design”</i> Session chair: Mr Peet du Plessis – AAA GM
10:40 – 11:10	Morning tea-break
Session 13: Guest speaker 11:10 – 12:00	Topic: “Maintaining a healthy work-life balance”. Speaker: Prof Wilma ten Ham-Baloyi, Associate Professor, Department of Nursing Science, NMU Session chair: Ms Ranitha Ramdeyal, Board member
12:00 – 12:10 Conference evaluation	The following QR code will be displayed on a slide as well that will link delegates to an on-line evaluation form, or click on the following link: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/wXTPENkYYs?origin=lprLink Please take a few minutes to respond to the on-line evaluation questionnaire as your feedback is very important for the Board in planning the next conferences. 
Session 14: 12:10 –13:10 AGM	7th Annual General Meeting of Members of the AAA – Chair: Mr Ashmind Daniels Important Note: The agenda for the AGM is published on the 2026 AAA Conference website on the following link. https://assocacadadmin.co.za/conferences/aaa-2026-conference-agm/conference-agm-2026/
13:10 – 13:15	Lucky draw – Prize is a R1 000 Woolworths voucher Conference closing
13:15 – 14:15	Lunch and goodbyes