

Edu-Lead academic discussion session

Wednesday 12 June 2019

Prof Scott Eacott

On Wednesday, 12 June 2019, the Edu-Lead entity held an academic discussion that involved all three NWU campuses via electronic conference media. Edu-Lead welcomed Professor Scott Eacott from the University of New South Wales in Australia (rated as the 4th best university in Australia), as a guest speaker who joined us electronically. The theme for his presentation was: *Starting points for a relational approach to organisational theory: An overview.*

Professor Eacott identified three core principles when thinking about what Education Leadership means and entails. The first principle being clarity, clarity entails thinking specifically about what is meant with Education Leadership and how it is defined as well as problems that may arise. The second principle is coherence; coherence should be applied in your action to solve the clarified problems. The third principle is narrative which refers to your understanding and narrative about the leadership. The core assumption that has been made in Education Leadership, is that leadership matters and that leadership can be defined in different ways; and this is exactly what Prof Scott wants to interrogate – if these assumptions can just be taken for granted.

He challenged the participants to engage with scholars and practitioners who think differently from their own perspectives. This has the potential to broaden one's scope and influence the way that one looks at the reality. He said that we have many preconceived understandings of leadership and need to challenge what we accept and how we look at what leadership is. He emphasised that he rather engages with organising and to organise than at leadership as the first priority.



Mafikeng members of Edu-Lead. From left Prof Edmore Mutekwe, Prof Connie Zulu, Dr Jan Khumalo and Dr Martha Matashu. Dr Annamarie Pelser joined from home via Adobe Connect



Potchefstroom members of Edu-Lead. From left Dr CP van der Vyver, Prof Kobus Mentz, Mr T Tapala, Prof Herman van Vuuren, Dr Leentjie van Jaarsveld and Dr Arrie van Wyk



Potchefstroom members of Edu-Lead. From left Prof Kobus Mentz, Dr CP van der Vyver, Dr Leentjie van Jaarsveld, Dr Arrie van Wyk, Dr Molly van Niekerk, Me Majoro (M student) and Prof Jan Heystek (director of Edu-Lead)



Prof Scott Eacott who presented the Wednesday session at Edu-Lead