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forward together
sonke siya phambili
saam vorentoe

What does it mean to be **generous** with your **science?**



higher education
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Department:
Higher Education and Training
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What does it mean to be generous with your science?

It means that you recognize [that] who you are, and the gifts you possess, is **a consequence of grace**. By grace I mean that others made you possible. And when you trace the trajectory of your life, you realize more and more that you would not have been here without the gracious support of others. Hold perspective.

It means that you need to do more than give of your resources, the material things readily at hand to give to others. It means also that **you give of yourself**. What's the difference: it means giving that goes beyond the call of duty; giving when you have nothing else to give other than your devotion; giving in ways that always put the mentee or the supervisee or the colleague first. That is giving with a higher purpose.



It means **finding the balance between competition and cooperation**. To compete means wanting to be the best in your field and yes, to win awards, and the other things that come with breakthrough science and academic standing. Nothing wrong with that. But it means nothing if that healthy sense of competition does not coexist with the sheer joy of being able to co-operate with your colleagues. Someone in this room and I went up for a national award recently. One of us won, the other did not. But the friendship was so strong and genuine that you would not have noticed.

It means **correcting** in your own **professorial leadership** what others might have done wrong with you. Every day I hear stories of the exploitation of young academics; of the narrowmindedness of HODs who turn down an aspirant professor from taking up an overseas scholarship; and so on. Now that you know better, do better (my principal). Generosity is learnt, not bestowed. And there is nothing more powerful that can come out of your FPP experience than to be a transformative leader, one who is generous in their promotion of others.



It means **appreciating the outstanding scholarship of your peers** and telling them that. What do I get out of the FPP? I work with some of the best scientists and scholars in the world, many of them A-rated academics. They balance knowledge with wisdom, passion with purpose, and criticism bathed in a commitment to collegiality. Thank you Stella, Brenda, Danie, Cath and others for not only giving us this world-class program, but for collectively being my lodestar in higher education. I love you and I appreciate you.

It means **making service a conscious and consistent part of your scholarship**. Not an extension of your research thinking but an essential part of it. Let me give you an example from my own field. Why BF Skinner, the bane of constructivists, was right. I went into a broken school as a turnaround specialist; I came out with a theory that explains why working class schools still fail working class kids. Research and development, inseparable.

It means using your position to **fight the tyrants of managerialism, of academic xenophobia, of everyday pettiness** on behalf of others (student, young academics) regardless of whom they are, where they were born, and whether they can do anything for you.