Preface

This commemorative edition is a product of the subprogram for Governance and Transformation. As such it is an opportunity for various young academicians to publish alongside masters of the art such as Prof. B.J. (Bennie) van de Walt and J.F. (Johan) Kirsten. Within these pages an overview is provided of contemporary politics, with perspectives ranging from analytical, descriptive and normative to the practical appraisal of the new challenges facing institutions for higher education. In a nutshell this edition of Koers provides a window on current realities and an ever-changing environment.

Mr. J.C.M. Venter and Prof. A. Duvenhage focuses on the Polokwane conference and the implications of the watershed decisions taken at this conference for “a second political transition” in South Africa. The new hegimonically dominant ANC, with a stronger ideological base, is analysed and potential outcomes/scenarios are postulated.

Prof. J.F. Kirsten looks at the African continent and analyses the new positive trends and old challenges discernable at the beginning of the new century. He reflects on new economic growth, new prodemocracy movements, and the ending of several long standing conflicts.

Prof. B.J. van der Walt formulates perspectives for normative politics and reconstructs the message of the Institute for Reformational Studies (IRS) during the period 1976-1996. In the first part of his article a worldview that serves as foundation for a Christian perspective on politics is set apart and described.

Mr. P.W. Heidenrych describes the deficiencies of the local government system that relates to the role of this sphere of government in the deepening of participatory democracy. He proposes that a lack of depth and quality in local democracy compromises the system of intergovernmental relations.

Prof. G. van der Waldt defines structures of governance as those that carry accountability and power and so binds organisations. With a growing emphasis on project applications for policy implementa-
tion and service delivery, mechanisms or structures should be esta-
blished to facilitate clear interfaces between permanent organisation
and temporary project organisation.

Mr. A. Schoeman describes the shifting emphasis on the failed state
from a regional humanitarian problem to the recognition that these
states could pose a significant threat to global security. In this regard
US policymakers in particular, have identified failed states as sour-
ces of potential terrorist threats. This renewed interest has exposed
a number of theoretical deficiencies in the body of literature regard-
ing this phenomenon.

Mr. D. van Schalkwyk provides an overview of the government’s for-
mulation of the taxi recapitalisation policy aimed at the regulating of
the minibus taxi industry. This is done together with a social, political
and historical contextualisation of this policy.

Me. L. Vermeulen appraises the e-readiness of online learning facili-
tators against the background of recent changes in higher education
institutions. The new demand to incorporate technology in teaching
and learning activities is exempted for special attention.

This group of talented and mostly young academicians brings actua-
ality and readability to this edition of Koers. The hope is expressed
that they will use this as a starting point for long and fruitful research
careers.

André Duvenhage
Guest Editor