



Ms. Melanie Sadeck, has held the position as the Head of the Department of Teacher Professional Development in the Faculty of Education at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) since 2008, managing and coordinating the in-service Teacher Professional Development (TPD) Programmes as well Faculty short courses, partnerships, service learning and community engagement activities.

Melanie has been in Higher Education for 26 years holding various positions in the School of Science and the Faculty of Education. She is passionate about science teaching and learning and has taught Chemistry to analytical chemistry, chemical engineering, food and medical technology as well as Education students. She has been involved in many curriculum design activities and the offering of staff development programmes. She is registered for her PhD researching the experiences of beginner science teachers in the Western Cape.

She has served on various institutional committees and has extensive knowledge of Higher Education operations and issues. She has participated in various discussion forums and served as CPUT's academic representative to the Higher Education Summit in 2010. She also was involved in five working groups in preparation for CPUT's institutional audit in 2010. She is an advocate for fair labour practice and workers' rights and has been an active member of one of the employee unions at PenTech/CPUT for many 12 years. In June 2014 she was elected to serve as the academic representative on the Council of CPUT.

She has a special interest in Women in Higher Education. She participated in the WEXDEV – ANT – Pen Tech – FAWESA Project: Developing Women in Executive Positions. In 1998 she delivered a paper titled "Staff women and affirmative action at Peninsula Technikon" at the Black Women in the Academy II conference in Washington DC. She is a HERS alumnus who was lucky enough to spend some time at the HERS Academy and a stint at Mt Holyoke in Massachusetts. She is currently convener of the gender sub-committee of the Equity Monitoring Committee (EMEC) at CPUT. Melanie joined the HERS-SA Board in January 2015.

Melanie has participated in a number of research and development partnerships related to science education. She was part of a team of science educators and curriculum advisors who developed learning materials that were used to address the lack of practical work in under-resourced schools. These materials became part of a national resource for science teachers.

She is currently a member of the Critical Thinking Group whose mission is the promotion of critical thinking in science and technology. She is external examiner to UCT; a reviewer of conference and journal publications and is a research supervisor. She has presented at conferences nationally and internationally and co-authored several accredited research articles in the area of science teacher education. When not working, Melanie likes to listen to jazz and do handicrafts.