

11 May 2015

TO: VICE-CHANCELLORS

Tel: +27 12 4812842
Fax: +27 12 4812843/50
Email: admin@hesa.org.za
Website: www.hesa.org.za
Higher Education South Africa NPC t/a HESA
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REVISION OF MANUAL ON THE PROGRAMME CLASSIFICATION STRUCTURE

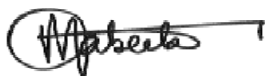
The Department's Higher Education Management Information System (HEMIS) has, since its introduction in 2000, used the classifications published by the Department of National Education as *Programme Classification Structure Manual* (PCS) (SAPSE 003: May 1982). The Department of Higher Education and Training and higher education institutions have in recent years experienced challenges with the 1982 classification system, primarily because it is based on a structuring of programmes/activities which is now more than 30 years old. The Department is of the view that this classification system can no longer deal appropriately with new developments in the types of programmes/activities geared towards the achievement of institutional aims and objectives.

The Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr BE Nzimande, appointed a project team in 2014 to review the 1982 classification system. The project team has submitted a report to the Minister in which it is proposed that the 1982 system be replaced by **new programme classifications**. The revised classification system differs markedly from the former classification system since there are two more programmes, more subcategories were added and some of the subcategories were moved to other programmes. The Minister has accepted the recommendation from the project team in principle, however, decided that wider consultations be held with universities before a new classification system is approved. He has requested HESA to (a) coordinate a process in which the revised version of the PCS manual is sent to all universities for comment and proposals, and (b) to submit to him a consolidated report on the comments and proposal received by 31 July 2015. **The revised version of the PCS manual is attached for your attention.**

Flowing from the above, we are inviting universities to submit comments and proposals on the revised manual to Ms Jana van Wyk at jana@hesa.org.za by no later than **Monday, 6 July 2015**. We are allowing universities sufficient time to consult internally in developing an institutional response due to the importance of the manual in the planning and management of the institution. Any queries can be directed to Ms van Wyk at the email address or Tel: 012 481 2895.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Regards



DR JEFFREY MABELEBELE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER