



higher education  
& training

Department:  
Higher Education and Training  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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Department of Higher Education and Training

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# NEW POLICY INITIATIVES

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## NP-PSET

- The National Plan for Post School Education and Training (NP-PSET) is still being finalized.
- Engagements were held around the country with stakeholders from the universities, which included students.
- It has been published for public comment.
- It was submitted to the former Minister, Minister Pandor and it appears that she did sign it off, however our current Minister, Minister Nzimande wants a briefing before the final version is published. The colleagues are awaiting a meeting with the Minister.

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## PROFESSIONAL BODIES

- The Council on Higher Education (CHE) started with the drafting of a collaboration agreement with the professional bodies.
- Their concern however was how to enforce such an agreement as they do not have the authority over professional bodies.
- Colleagues from the Department who were part of the team developing the agreement stated they would turn it into a policy, then the professional bodies would have to comply.
- Funding was obtained from the European Union to hold a colloquium and for a report to be drafted which could then be turned into a policy framework.
- The report was finalized and submitted to the Department and work on a draft policy commenced.

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## PROFESSIONAL BODIES

- The policy went through the due process at the Department to be signed off by the Minister for public comment.
- During the submission process the Department's legal Department indicated that we could not develop such a policy as we do not have jurisdiction over Professional Bodies that fall under other government departments. Only the relevant government departments can create legislation for their professional bodies.
- The Department then was back to where we started when the CHE was preparing the collaboration agreement.
- The Policy was then reworked into a framework for collaboration with Professional bodies

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## PROFESSIONAL BODIES

- Recently the directorate responsible for the NQF were requested by the Minister through the NQF to set up a task team on Professional bodies.
- After engagements with the branch the Planning branch have taken over the process of finalizing a framework for collaboration with professional bodies.
- The framework will enable the collaboration with professional bodies on the development of qualifications, the accreditation of qualifications/recognition for employment.
- It is hoped that this policy will be able to go for stakeholder engagement/public comment before the end of the year.

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## EXTENDED CURRICULUM PROGRAMME POLICY

- The department appointed a retired person to assist with the finalization of this policy.
- A concept paper was drafted based on the draft ECP policy and this paper deals with various options for ECP, such as should it just go into the Block grant, should it remain as a dedicated earmarked grant or should it move to the University Capacity Development Programme (UCDP).
- A save the date was sent to universities for a workshop on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019.
- The concept paper and the draft policy will be presented at this workshop, thereafter universities will be requested to provide comment.

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## EXTENDED CURRICULUM PROGRAMME POLICY

- It is expected that comments should be provided by the end of September.
- The ECP policy will then be finalized taking into account of the comments.
- The policy will then have to go through the Socio-economic Impact Assessment (SEIAS).
- It is anticipated that the policy should be finalized by the end of the 2019/20 financial year.

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## INSTITUTIONAL TYPES

- The Higher Education Act of 1997 (as amended) makes provision for various institutional types, such as universities, university colleges and higher education colleges.
- The types of universities are then defined as universities, comprehensive universities and universities of technology.
- Regulations are being developed for the types of universities.
- These regulations are almost complete and should be going through the due departmental processes shortly for the Minister to sign off for political comment.
- The aim is to try and get these finalized by October but in all likelihood they will probably only be finalized by March 2020.

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## FUNDING GAZETTE

- Following the finalization of the funding review by the Ministerial Task team a stakeholder engagement took place over 2 days.
- Some of the recommendations have been implemented such as the Historically Disadvantage Grant.
- With the #feesmustfall and the Heher commission report the announcement of fee free education for the poor resulted in the changes to the funding gazette being placed on hold.
- The reason being that a fee regulation and a bursary policy are being drafted.
- Only once these policies have been finalized can the revisions to the funding gazette be finalized.

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## DIFFERENTIATION POLICY

- Prior to the HEQF and HEQSF the old academic policies created the differentiation in the system.
- This policy is being developed in conjunction with the regulations on institutional types and will give effect to the regulations.
- This policy will typically determine the scope and range of qualifications that the various institutional types will be able to offer.
- Enrolment planning, PQMs are just some of the ways that differentiation can be implemented

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## WORK INTEGRATED LEARNING POLICY

- The development of this policy commenced some time ago and has moved from the university branch to the planning branch to the skills branch.
- This policy defines the types of work-intergrated learning.
- In addition it defines the various terms such as intern, learnships, etc.
- This policy is currently with the skills branch for finalisation

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## DATA DICTIONARY

- The data dictionary has been compiled and published for public comment.
- Comments have been received and are with the colleagues in the Information Systems co-ordination unit.
- This document tries to bring together all the various definitions in the PSET system.
- The HEMIS directorate has played a large role in the development of this document.
- It was agreed that definitions are firstly derived from existing acts and policies.

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## DATA DICTIONARY

- If not available in an act or policy then international documentation was used.
- Where the various branches had their own definitions it was agreed to put in all the definitions, e.g universities and TVET have different definitions for staff.
- In all cases the sources are identified so there will be no confusion where terminology has more than one definition.
- Based on the comments that have been received from the CHE I have been asked to provide new definitions but have requested that the colleagues go back to the CHE as many of the terms they have sent me relate to accreditation.

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## OTHER POLICIES

- A policy on internationalization is in progress and should be finalized shortly.
- This policy will also deal with the offering of joint degrees. However, we will have to check the policy on internationalisation against a document we recently engaged on with SAQA called the Global Conference on the recognition of Higher Education Qualifications. UNESCO are responsible for the global conference document and will need to ensure that there is consistency between our policy and this document.
- The language policy is still in the process of being finalized.
- The Minister of Higher Education and Training published the draft Policy Framework to address Gender-Based Violence in the Post-School Education and Training System for public comments. (For Attention: Ms Sesi Mahlobogoane, Director: Social Inclusion and Equity, email:[socialinclusion@dhet.gov.za](mailto:socialinclusion@dhet.gov.za))

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## BILLS IN PROGRESS

- 2 Bills are currently in the legislative process:-
- The Central Applications Service (CAS) Bill. This Bill has been out for public comment and we are currently working through the comments and where applicable changes will be made to the bill before it goes through the final legislative process to cabinet.
- The other Bill in progress is the revision of the NQF Bill.

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## PROTOCOLS

- In addition to Acts, policies and regulations the Department also has protocols in place with other government departments.
- For example we have protocol in place with the National Department of Health on the declaration of the Nursing colleges as Higher Education Colleges.
- We will be drafting a similar protocol for the Agricultural Colleges.
- We have a protocol with the Department of Basic Education on the completion of the statistics required for the UNESCO questionnaire.

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## THANK YOU

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