DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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VALPAC CHANGES AND UPDATES

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VALPAC UPDATES

- The following changes to SQLValpac have been implemented:

- The new cesms for Clinical Technology and Biomedical Technology have been added to the lookup table and included in the relevant reports.

- Table 2.7 has been changed to move advanced diplomas and the Post Graduate Certificate in Education from the PG section of this table to the UG section.

- The new elements 107 (SAQA ID) and 108 (first year of study for M and D) have been included in the database.

VALPAC UPDATES

- **Changes still under consideration.**

- New Extended Curriculum Programme Policy will require a new element to enable the splitting of a course, e.g if the course has 60% foundation provision and 40% regular need to be able to identify this split. Expect to implement an element similar to 073.

- Being able to identify all sources of funding for students including if they are fee paying students.

- A new indicator in the staff data in order to be able to identify senior staff according to their rank and qualification such as VCs, Deans etc.

- Validation on the Qual ID (SAQA ID).

VALPAC UPDATES

- **Changes being requested.**

- Disability status for staff.

- Including the SA Ids for staff.

- New reports for staff by nationality

- New reports for staff by race and gender as currently table 3.3 does not enable a combination of the race and gender.

- A filter to be added to the staff summary for staff by qualification type

- A new module for research publications

VALPAC UPDATES

- **Need to engage on a way forward to report students receiving NSFAS**

  - Have had discussions with NSFAS about a way forward on collecting the NSFAS information and will notify institutions in due course. They have indicated that currently institutions still need to notify them if a student has registered, so they have indicated that universities should be able to report if a student has received NSFAS.

  - What is the current status on identifying students who receive NSFAS funding?

VALPAC UPDATES

- **HEMIS DOCUMENTATION**

  - The software contractors worked through the documentation and amended the help files to include the changes. In addition they built new validations tests for the new elements.

  - 00708 this still needs to be resolved – this is a warning but there needs to be a determination of how to handle errors that are due to the cancellation of the qualification but not the courses which results in no matching record in STUD. Why are courses cancelled and not the qualification?

VALPAC UPDATES

- **HEMIS DOCUMENTATION**

  - Has the issue of reporting on temporary staff issue been resolved? Should the following extract from the old SAPSE manual 0121(U) be written into the Help files:-

  - It states for the fte calculation "In this case his FTE value is derived from a calculation based on the fraction he/she is carrying of the work load of a typical full-time employee employed for 12 months".

  - It then goes on to state " the method universities <u>must</u> employ is that of making a realistic <u>estimate</u> of what fraction of the work load of a full-time lecturer the load of the part-time lecturer constitutes. This estimate <u>must not</u> be based on a calculation of <u>actual number of hours</u> spent by the part-time lecturer on university activities ".

VALPAC UPDATES

- **HEMIS DOCUMENTATION**

  - The manual also shows a calculation using finance data but concludes that the calculation is misleadingly simple and should not be employed.

  - The DHET therefore advocated the first option, based on the workload for permanent staff, for determining the ftes for part-time/temporary staff and only if this is not possible then the payroll should be used.

VALPAC UPDATES

- **HEMIS DOCUMENTATION**

- The following work has not yet been undertaken:-

  - Updating of the credit value calculation based on the NQF credits. There is some concern where NQF credits are all equal as the question would be, is this correct in terms of the required notional hours?

  - A thorough assessment of the glossary to determine what updates need to be undertaken such as the inclusion of the NQF levels, NQF credits, subsidy units, etc.

  - Referencing applicable new policies, such as the distance education policy.

VALPAC UPDATES

- **CIRCULARS**

- In the past changes circulars were used to clarify issues in the reporting process.

- Is there a need to implement these circulars again, if so what are the specific issues that universities need clarity on.

VALPAC UPDATES

- **PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESS ON PSET-INFORMATION POLICY**

- During the public comment process some comments submitted referred to the Valpac software. The colleagues responsible for the policy wanted me to respond on the comments.

- This has not been done as SQLVALPAC is not a Management Information System and was never intended to be. The proposals could be costly for the Department and we have very limited budget for software development. The purpose of this software is for it to be a validation package in order to validate the institutional data before it comes to the Department.

VALPAC UPDATES

- The latest version of SQLVALPAC has been released and it has been acknowledged that it is a complex installation. It was for this reason that initially the DHET never wanted to change to SQL. When there is a notification sent out regarding an update please download the update and use that version for data submissions. Institutions do not need to re-install the application they only have to overwrite the old exe with the new exe.

- Universities may not instruct Praxis computing to make changes. All requests for changes must come through the DHET in order to comply with our change management policy and AG requirements.

AUDIT GUIDELINES

- Included an additional table on the graduates in Teacher Education to be audited at the request of the Auditor General.

- The verification of this data cannot come from table 2.13 as we select specific qualification types.

- We are awaiting the new MTSF targets and this may require further changes to SQLVALPAC

- The audit guidelines will be updated as when required by the AG and if we pick up problems verifying the data.

QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU