

ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN – AUGUST 2018

The following matter forms part of the Environmental Scan for August 2018:

Council on Higher Education (CHE)

1) Quality Promotion Conference

<http://www.che.ac.za/sites/default/files/Quality%20Promotion%20Conference%2026%20to%2028%20February%202019%20%282%29.pdf>

The CHE is hosting a quality promotion conference on 26 to 28 February 2018. The theme of the conference is:

Promoting Academic Integrity in Higher Education

The aim of the conference is to provide a platform for sharing experiences, lessons and good practices, as well as for raising issues and stimulating dialogue on the need to maintain academic integrity across the higher education sector".

“The target group includes, but is not limited to:

- Quality assurance managers and/or practitioners in higher education institutions
- Officials from national qualifications authorities or commissions
- Deans of Faculties and Heads or Chairpersons of Departments in public and private higher education institutions
- Registrars in public and private higher education institutions
- Students in public and private higher education institutions
- Registrars of Professional Bodies
- Academics
- Researchers in the fields of ethics, quality assurance and promotion
- Higher education policy and/or regulation developers
- Higher education policy analysts
- Officials from the Ministries and/or Departments of Higher Education
- Representatives of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with interest in the higher education"

“The conference will comprise plenary sessions, parallel paper presentation sessions, poster session, panel discussion session, a gala dinner and an excursion. The keynote speakers at the plenary sessions will include world renowned experts in matters to do with promotion of academic integrity. The panellists for the panel discussion session will similarly be a mixture of local and international experts in the field”.

There is a call to submit Abstracts for those wishing to share something in promoting academic integrity in higher education, the deadline for which is 31 October 2018.

Registration for the conference closes on 8 February 2018.

The cost is R4800.00/delegate registering up until 31 October 2018, thereafter R5600.00/delegate.

Department of Higher Education (DHET)

1) CALL FOR NOMINATIONS OF A MEMBER FROM THE ORGANISED LABOUR FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/41827_gon804.pdf

NEWS24

1) The NSFAS is not 'out of the woods' – higher education department

<https://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/the-nsfas-is-not-out-of-the-woods-higher-education-dept-20180816>

Chairperson of the Portfolio committee on Higher Education and Training, Connie September gave the floundering National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) the task to "pay the right amount of money to the right students at the right time".

Payments for 2017 and 2018 have been lagging. During the first week of August Minister Pandor put the committee under administration. The administrator will close out 2017 and 2018 and put plans in place for 2019 funding.

SARS group exec, Dr Randall Carolissen has been appointed as the Administrator.

2) Curro exceeds 50 000 learners, plans to expand further

<https://www.fin24.com/Companies/curro-exceeds-50-000-learners-plans-to-expand-further-20180814>

Their revenue increased to R1.2bn with the first 6 months of the financial year and Curro plan to invest in more campuses. Their student numbers increased by 10%.

3) What happened to internationalisation of the curriculum?

<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20180725092142237>

According to University World News, "In Commentary, [Craig Whitsed, Wendy Green and Carla Camargo Cassol](#) say 'internationalisation of the curriculum' has all but disappeared as an educational priority in Australian universities, and question how academics might positively shape the discourse of global employability, which has replaced it. With global competition for international students becoming intense, [Rahul Choudaha](#) says universities need to consider the changes in the external environment and recalibrate their value proposition for international students to promote sustainable enrolment growth".

4) Higher education disability policy – Important but flawed

<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20180724113833368>

“South Africa finally has a disability policy that's specific to the higher education sector...” There are some concerns, “...such as funding, the approaches taken to understand disability, how it will be integrated with existing national policies and what support is available to universities trying to implement it”.