



## **DIE AFRIKAANSE PROTESTANTSE AKADEMIE NPC**

Registration number: 2002/031756/08

Registered with the Department of Higher Education and Training as a private higher education institution under the Higher Education Act, 1997

**Registration Certificate No. 1999/HE08/001**

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### **INSTITUTIONAL POLICY ON QUALITY ASSURANCE**

Policy Owner	Board of The APA
Responsibility	Quality Commissioner and Quality Committee
Status	Unapproved
Dates of amendments	2015
Review date	2020

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 As a registered and accredited Higher Education Institution, with the purpose of quality higher education, there should be an explicit enhancement of quality at Die Afrikaanse Protestantse Akademie.
- 1.2 In order to achieve and maintain quality in the Institute, there should be specific structures and processes in place supporting quality enhancement. These structures and processes should feed and maintain a quality culture and care for quality in the Institution.
- 1.3 As an institution with a unique institutional culture and purpose, driven by the pursuit for excellence in private higher education, Die Afrikaanse Protestantse Akademie adopted this policy by its Senate on 15 May 2013.
- 1.4 Quality relates to fitness of purpose to deliver programmes and graduates that are accepted nationally and internationally.

## 2. RESPONSIBILITY

- 2.1 The Institution must have a quality commission that meets annually with a Quality Officer (chair of the commission) with report on each programme to the person. The Registrar is the Quality Commissioner and responsible for quality assurance and control.
- 2.2 Quality assurance is seen as part of the responsibility and activities of all staff (academic and support).
- 2.3 Overall responsibility for quality assurance rests with the Vice-Chancellor, who will report on the status of quality assurance to the Board).

## 3. QUALITY INDICATORS

- 3.1 **Policies and implementation of policies.** Policies are not only philosophical documents. Policies should be implemented and reviewed as well as monitored. The main responsible person is the Registrar of the Institution with an annual report on policies, development and implementation to the board.
- 3.2 **Programme design.** Programme design should be according to the content and goals of the Policy for development of Learning Programmes.
- 3.3 **Course material.** Quality as part of course material is relevant to prior knowledge and expertise, learning goals, outcomes, assessment, functionality and purpose according to the Policy for the development of learning material.
- 3.4 **Assessment and evaluation.** Assessment and evaluation according the Institutional policy on assessment and the management thereof. All self-evaluations and/or peer evaluations must be followed by an improvement plan with actions to respond to the results or weaknesses/deficiencies identified during the evaluation process. Self evaluation is regarded as a cornerstone in quality.
- 3.5 **Learner support.** Communication, platforms of learner support and transparency with regard to all aspects of higher education. Students are an integral part of the quality assurance system. Student support and development with regard to the identification of academically non active or at risk students as well as support in various forms enhance life and academic skills.

**3.6 Resources.** Academic and administrative or support staff. For quality in education it is expected that well qualified staff must be appointed as well as development of staff takes place according to the Staff Development Policy . Learning facilities must be adequate and sufficient for teaching and learning.

**3.7 Management and administration.** Effectiveness in management and administration supports quality education. All functions and services rendered by academic, administrative, student and/or general support units must be continuously evaluated and assessed as part of quality support.

**3.8 Collaboration/Peer review.** Institutional education don't take place in isolation but in collaboration. Except from communication with regulatory bodies, external peer evaluation must be conducted on a regular basis within a five year cycle with specific guidelines provided. Interaction with external academic, industry statutory/non-statutory, regulatory and/or non regulatory bodies and/or professional bodies/councils representation forms part of the continuous collaboration process.

**3.9 Teaching and Learning.** All aspects of teaching and learning as set out in the Teaching and Learning Policy should be emphasized, monitored and managed. Academic quality is best guaranteed when responsibility for it is located as closely as possible to the academic processes of teaching, learning, research and community engagement and it is maintained and enhanced through the professional commitment of staff and students. Enhancing academics as teachers, upgrading of skills as well as looking at and taking workload allocation in consideration forms a cornerstone in quality teaching and learning. Teaching and learning are supported by learning spaces as well as the learning environment, access to information and the institutional support services forms pillars for quality in teaching and learning

**3.10 Results and Research.** Results, successes, drop-outs, cancellations , academic and institutional research all speak to this indicator or quality.

#### **4. APPLICATION**

4.1 Quality as purpose should be managed and measured. This measurement could take place sometimes on a weekly basis, monthly, on semester-intervals, annually, continuously and sometimes not at all.

4.2 Quality application at Die Afrikaanse Protestantse Akademie (APA NPC) should be according to the APA cycle

**Assessment** – assessment and or analys of all indicators and the quality *status quo* . Feedback always initiates the cyclic process.

**Planning** – planning with regard to assessment and analysis in relation to the purpose, output, and goals of the Institution generally but for quality specifically.

**Action** – taking action where needed with the purpose of improving quality striving for quality excellence.

#### **5. PROTECTION**

The aim of the policy is the protection of quality. Information regarding quality in the Institution will be highly valuated and the identity of people with information on lack of quality, will also be protected when necessary , requested and possible. Information regarding quality must be submitted to the quality commissioner.

Compiled by Prof. SD Nel - Registrar  
Developed: 25 April 2013  
Revised : 27 Februarie 2015